School of Theology at Claremont
10011445657

The Library

of the

CLAREMONT

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

1325 North College Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3199
1/800-626-7820

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN DIGEST.

BX
8986
.A52
1878

DIGEST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL ACTS AND DELIVERANCES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

United Presbyterian Church

OF NORTH AMERICA,

FROM

1859 to 1878.

PITTSBURGH:
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

MILLS & BROTHER, PRINTERS, 53 NINTH STREET,
1878.

Preface.

This Digest of the Principal Acts and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America was prepared in accordance with the following action: "The committee on Judiciary, to which was referred the memorials from the Presbyteries of Tennessee and First New York, asking that the principal deliverances of the Assemblies since 1858 be collected and published in suitable form for convenient reference, recommend the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to carry out the design of the memorialists." Vol. IV, p. 299, 1876.

This committee prepared a Digest and presented it to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the work of your committee to prepare a Digest be approved.

"2. That it be referred to the same committee, with instruction to make such revision as may be deemed necessary, and to incorporate in it such items from the proceedings of the present Assembly and that of 1878, as is proper to complete the work to that date.

"3. That the committee be instructed to publish this work, and with it the Book of Discipline and Government, as soon after the above date as possible." Vol. IV, p. 441, 1877.

In accordance with this action, the Digest is now published.

This Digest does not contain the acts and deliverances of the Associate Synod, or the Associate Reformed Synod. However desirable a compilation of these acts and deliverances might be, yet as they are not of authority in the United Presbyterian Church, it has been thought best not to burden the Digest with them. Besides, the Digest was limited, by the action of the Assembly, to the deliverances "since 1858."

For several years after the Union, the Minutes of the General Assembly were published in separate numbers, and paged accordingly. But to secure uniformity, the references in the Digest are

made to the first volume of the Minutes as if it was paged consecutively, as the other volumes are. To assist in finding the places referred to, the year is mentioned, as well as the volume and the page. The deliverances of the Assembly are arranged under topics; but for convenience of reference, a copious index has been prepared.

A Digest is designed to take the place, in ordinary use, of the unabridged record of the transactions of the Assembly. Time and experience must determine whether the present attempt, in its arrangement and selections, will meet the wants of the church. The defects, which may be discovered in it, can be remedied in future editions.

WILLIAM J. REID,
A. G. WALLACE,
J. T. COOPER,
Committee.

PITTSBURGH, PA., Oct. 10, 1878.

Table of Contents.

I. GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

PART I.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
I.	Introductory,	13
II.	The Church,	14
III.	The Members of the Church,	14
IV.	The Officers of the Church,	14
	1. Different Kinds of Officers,	14
	2. The Teaching Elder,	15
	3. The Ruling Elder,	15
	4. The Deacon,	15
V.	The Courts of the Church,	15
	1. The Session,	15
	2. The Presbytery,	16
	3. The Synod,	17
	4. The General Assembly,	18
	5. The Officers of Courts,	19

PART II.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

I.	The Organization of Congregations,	21
II.	The Admission of Church Members,	22
III.	The Dismission of Members,	23

CHAPTER. PAGE.
IV. Students of Theology, ... 23
V. Probationers, ... 24
VI. The Election, Ordination, &c., of Pastors, ... 25
1. Election, ... 25
2. Ordination and Installation, ... 26
3. Translation, ... 29
4. Dissolution, ... 30
VII. The Election, Ordination, &c., of Elders and Deacons, . 30
1. Election, ... 30
2. Ordination and Installation, ... 31

PART III.

DISCIPLINE.

I. General Principles, ... 34
II. Offences, ... 35
III. The Parties in Cases of Process, ... 35
IV. Actual Process, ... 36
V. Process against Ministers, ... 39
VI. Exceptional Cases, ... 40
VII. Evidence, ... 40
VIII. Sentences, ... 42
IX. Church Censures, ... 43
1. Admonition, ... 43
2. Rebuke, ... 43
3. Suspension, ... 43
4. Deposition, ... 44
5. Excommunication, ... 44
X. The Restoration of Offenders, ... 45
XI. Dissents and Protests, ... 45
XII. The various ways by which a Case may be carried from a Lower to a Higher Court, ... 46
1. Review and control, ... 47
2. References, ... 47
3. Appeals, ... 48
4. Complaints, ... 49
5. Declinature, ... 50
XIII. Jurisdiction, ... 50
XIV. Limitation of Time, ... 50
Forms, ... 51

II. DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP.

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
I.	Introductory,	56
II.	The Seasons for Worship,	56
III.	The Ordinances of Public Worship,	57
	1. The Reading of the Scriptures,	57
	2. The Singing of Praise,	57
	3. The Offering of Prayer,	58
	4. The Preaching of the Word,	58
	5. The Administration of Baptism,	59
	6. The Administration of the Lord's Supper,	60
	7. The Pronouncing of the Benediction,	61
IV.	The Ordinances of Social Worship,	62
V.	The Ordinances of Family Worship,	62
VI.	The Ordinances of Secret Worship,	62
VII.	The Ordinances of Extraordinary Worship,	63
	1. Fasting,	63
	2. Thanksgiving,	63
	3. Covenanting,	64
VIII.	Miscellaneous,	64
	1. Sabbath Schools,	64
	2. Catechizing,	65
	3. Family Visitation,	65
	4. Systematic Beneficence,	66
	5. The Solemnization of Marriage,	66
	6. The Visitation of the Sick,	67
	7. The Burial of the Dead,	67

III. RULES OF ORDER.

Officers of the Assembly and their Election,	69
Duties of the Moderator,	69
Duties of the Clerks,	70
Quorum,	70
Committees,	70
Order of Business,	72
Motions,	72
Debate,	74
Voting,	75
Miscellaneous,	75

IV. DIGEST OF THE DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
I.	Amusements,	76
II.	Appeals,	76
III.	Associate Reformed Synod of the South,	78
IV.	Associate Synod,	80
V.	Baptism,	80
VI.	Bible in the Public Schools,	81
VII.	Boards of the Church,	81
VIII.	Book of Government and Discipline,	83
IX.	Centennial of the Nation,	85
X.	Charters,	86
XI.	Christian Commission,	86
XII.	Christ's Second Coming,	87
XIII.	Church Extension, Board of,	87
XIV.	Church Music,	92
XV.	Clerks of the Assembly,	94
XVI.	Committees,	95
XVII.	Confederation of Evangelical Churches,	95
XVIII.	Constitutions,	96
XIX.	Corresponding Churches,	96
XX.	Corresponding Secretaries,	97
XXI.	Covenanting,	98
XXII.	Deacons,	98
XXIII.	Delegate Fund,	99
XXIV.	Digest of the Deliverances of the General Assembly,	101
XXV.	Directory for Worship,	102
XXVI.	Education, Board of,	103
XXVII.	Elective Franchise,	109
XXVIII.	Evangelical Alliance,	109
XXIX.	Financial Agents,	109
XXX.	Foreign Missions, Board of,	111
XXXI.	Freedmen, Board of Missions to the,	120
XXXII.	Free Pews,	124
XXXIII.	Gailey's Appeal,	124
XXXIV.	General Assembly,	124
XXXV.	Gordon's Appeal,	127
XXXVI.	Green's Appeal,	128
XXXVII.	Hill's Case,	128
XXXVIII.	History of the United Presbyterian Church,	130
XXXIX.	Home Missions, Board of,	130
XL.	Indians,	140
XLI.	Jews,	140
XLII.	Legacies,	142
XLIII.	Licentiates,	143
XLIV.	Manses,	143
XLV.	Marriage,	144
XLVI.	Marshalls' Appeal,	145

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
XLVII.	Mathews' Memorial,	146
XLVIII.	M'Cune's Case,	146
XLIX.	Members of the Church,	147
L.	Ministerial Relief, Board of,	148
LI.	Ministers,	152
LII.	Minutes of the General Assembly,	152
LIII.	Missionary Presbyteries,	153
LIV.	Narrative and State of Religion,	154
LV.	Old Records,	154
LVI.	Oregon, Presbytery of,	156
LVII.	Overtures,	156
LVIII.	Pastors,	156
LIX.	Peace,	156
LX.	Presbyterian Church,	157
LXI.	Presbyterian Council,	159
LXII.	Presbyterian Historical Society,	160
LXIII.	Psalms,	161
LXIV.	Publication, Board of,	170
LXV.	Reading Sermons,	175
LXVI.	Reformed Presbyterian Church,	175
LXVII.	Reports of Presbyteries,	177
LXVIII.	Romanism,	177
LXIX.	Rules of Order,	177
LXX.	Ruling Elders,	178
LXXI.	Sabbath,	179
LXXII.	Sabbath Schools,	180
LXXIII.	Salaries,	186
LXXIV.	Secret Societies,	189
LXXV.	Slavery,	191
LXXVI.	State of the Country,	192
LXXVII.	Statistics,	194
LXXVIII.	Students,	196
LXXIX.	Superintendents of Missions,	198
LXXX.	Sustentation Fund.	199
LXXXI.	Synods,	199
LXXXII.	Systematic Beneficence,	200
LXXXIII.	Temperance,	201
LXXXIV.	Terms of Communion,	204
LXXXV.	Theological Seminaries,	208
LXXXVI.	Title to Church Property,	214
LXXXVII.	Tobacco,	215
LXXXVIII.	Treasurers,	215
LXXXIX.	Trustees of Congregations,	216
XC.	Trustees of the General Assembly,	217
XCI.	Union of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches,	217
XCII.	Week of Prayer,	223
XCIII.	Wilson's Appeal,	223
XCIV.	Women Taking Part in Public Religious Exercises,	224

I. GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

PART I.

Form of Government.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

1. *Necessity of Government.*—No society can exist, or act for the ends of its existence, without some form of government.

The church, a society of divine origin, has always existed under a government of divine authority. Under the former dispensation, every part of its government was specifically detailed. Under the present dispensation, its form of government, as of worship, is less cumbrous, more free and spiritual, but in its essential principles not less clearly revealed.

2. *Presbyterian Church Government.*—Government by elders, or Presbyterian church government, is the order of the New Testament. This was the original order of government in the church. It was the sole order under the patriarchal dispensation. It was an important and the only permanent part of the Mosaic order. In the synagogue service, it was the exclusive order of government.

The first congregations of the New Testament church were, by apostolic authority, organized after the model of the synagogue; and by the same authority, the principle of government by elders was applied to the organization of the church at large.

3. *Presbyterianism as Distinguished from Episcopacy and Independency.*—The Presbyterian system, in distinction from the Episcopalian, recognizes the teaching and ruling elders as the only officers of spiritual authority in the church, and the former of these as invested with all the official powers which are permanent in the church, and so of equal rank; and in distinction from the Congregational, recognizes the organic unity of the church, subordination of courts and ministerial authority derived not from the membership, but from Christ the Head of the church.

CHAPTER II.

THE CHURCH.

1. *Church Visible and Invisible.*—The church is the collective body of God's people.* In respect to its members, as chosen in Christ, and united to him by faith, it is spiritual simply and invisible. In respect to its members, as formally consecrated to God, it is organic and visible.† It is in the latter sense the church is a subject of formal government.

2. *The King of the Church.*—The Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, is also the King and Head of the church, and has been exalted to be Head over all things to the church.‡ Its constitution, laws, ordinances and offices are of his appointment, and are to be administered solely under his authority.

3. *The Ends of the Church.*—The great ends of the church are the preservation of the truth and ordinances of true religion, for the glory of God and salvation of souls.

CHAPTER III.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

1. *Professors.*—All who profess faith in Christ and obedience to his laws, are members of the visible church.§

2. *Children of Professors.*—The children of such professors are also members of the visible church. They are recognized in the covenant under which the church was formally organized,‖ and which has been the charter of its existence in every age since, and will be to the end of the world.¶ They have been so recognized in each past dispensation of that covenant,** and were so recognized expressly by the Apostles in organizing the church under the present dispensation.††

CHAPTER IV.

THE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

ARTICLE I.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF OFFICERS.

1. *Extraordinary Officers.*—At the organization of the New Testament church, were some officers, of whom, in their peculiar gifts and qualifications, there are no successors. Prominent among these were the Apostles, ordained to be witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, and endowed with miraculous powers.‡‡

2. *Ordinary Officers.*—The ordinary and permanent officers of the New Testament church are teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons.

---

* Heb. xii. 22, 23.
† Eph. iv. 11. Ps. ii. 6; Eph. ii, 22.
§ Acts ii. 46, 47.
‖ Gen. xvii. 9, 10.
¶ Gal. iii. 17.
** Acts ii. 39.
†† 1 Cor. vii. 14.
‡‡ Acts i. 8; iii, 5; 1 Cor. ix. 1; Matt. x. 1-8.

ARTICLE II.

THE TEACHING ELDER.

1. *His Powers.*—The teaching elder is the highest ordinary officer in the New Testament church. He is invested with all the official powers that are permanent in the church, ordination, government, teaching and administering the ordinances.*

2. *His Names.*—He is called by different names in Scripture, to express the different relations and duties of his office: Teacher,† in reference to his duty to instruct the people; Bishop,‡ in reference to his oversight of the flock; Pastor,§ in reference to his entire work of feeding, as well as governing, the flock; Ambassador,‖ in refererence to his relations and duties as one commissioned to declare the divine will, and beseech men in Christ's stead to be reconciled to God; and Minister,¶ in reference to his relations and duties as a servant of Christ and his church.

3. *His Duties.*—The duties of the teaching elder are to preach the word, administer the ordinances, govern the church, bless the people, ordain successors, and in general watch for souls.

ARTICLE III.

THE RULING ELDER.

1. *His Power.*—The ruling elder is the second in rank of the ordinary officers of the church; his official power is of government alone, and in this he is the equal of the teaching elder.**

2. *His Duties.*—He is to "rule well;" and while he may not officially labor in word and doctrine,†† he is to be a help in teaching as in ruling, instructing the ignorant, encouraging the weak, reproving and reclaiming the erring, and visiting and comforting the sick.‡‡

ARTICLE IV.

THE DEACON.

1. *His Power.*—The deacon is the lowest of the ordinary officers of the church; his official power pertains to temporal things. He has no spiritual authority.

2. *His Duties.*—The duties of his office pertain to the temporalities of the church, especially the collection and distribution of its charities.§§

CHAPTER V.

THE COURTS OF THE CHURCH.

ARTICLE I.

THE SESSION.

1. *Its Members.*—The lowest court of the church is the Bench of Elders, commonly designated the Session. This court consists of the elders of a particular congregation.

2. *Its Divine Authority.*—The divine authority of this court is evident from the whole history of church organization recorded in

---

* 1 Tim. iv. 14; Acts xx. 28; 1 Pet. v. 1; 1 Tim. v. 17.
† Eph. iv. 11.
‡ Acts xx. 28.
§ Eph. iv. 11.
‖ 2 Cor. v. 20.
¶ 1 Cor. iv. 1.
** 1 Tim. v. 17.
†† Rom. xii. 8.
‡‡ 1 Cor. xii. 28.
§§ Acts vi. 1-3.

the Acts and Epistles of the Apostles, showing that the first Christian congregations were placed under the rule of elders, after the model of the synagogue.

3. *When Rightly Constituted.*—This court is legitimate when constituted of ruling elders alone, but it is complete when, in connection with these, there is a teaching elder, as pastor of the congregation and moderator of the Session.

4. *Its Moderator.*—If without a pastor, the Session should, ordinarily through appointment of its Presbytery, but, in circumstances of special urgency, may, by its own invitation, procure a minister of the same Presbytery to preside and assist in adjudicating important cases. But when this cannot be done without injurious delay, the ruling elders may, by virtue of their official authority, appoint one of their own number to preside, and proceed to transact any necessary business.

5. *Its Duties.*—The Session is charged with the spiritual oversight and government of the congregation.* It belongs to it to decide upon the qualifications of applicants for church membership,† to inquire into the knowledge, character, and conduct of members, to arraign offenders, to admonish, rebuke, or suspend them, as the proper exercise of discipline may require, to dismiss members in good standing with proper certificates to other congregations, and do whatever else pertains to their office in maintaining the good order and promoting the edification of the church.

6. *How Convened.*—The Session may be convened by the pastor, when he may judge it requisite, and he shall always convene it when requested to do so by two elders. It may also meet on its own adjournment, and if there is no pastor, by an agreement among the members; and it shall always meet when ordered by the Presbytery.

7. *Quorum.*—In all ordinary cases, two elders with a minister, or three elders, in the absence of a minister, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

8. *Records.*—Every Session shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall, at least once every year, be submitted to the inspection of the Presbytery. It shall also keep and report to Presbytery every year a record of baptisms, of persons admitted to fellowship, of removals by death or otherwise, of contributions, and whatever else may be necessary to make up the statistical tables of the church.

ARTICLE II.

THE PRESBYTERY.

1. *Its Members.*—The Presbytery is the next higher court of the church, and consists of the ministers and one ruling elder from each pastoral charge within a defined district.

2. *Ministers Without Charge.*—Ministers without charge shall be accounted members of the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside, and shall enjoy all the privileges of other members.

3. *Divine Authority.*—The Presbytery is the essential court of

---

* Heb. xiii. 17.

† 1 Thess. v. 12, 13; 2 Thess. iii. 6, 14, 15.

the church in administering its general order. The higher courts are constituted simply by a wider application of the principles of Presbytery. The authority for this court, like that of the Session, is in the example of the primitive church. The facts recorded in respect to the churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus and Corinth, prove them to have been in every essential particular, under an organization answering to a Presbytery.

4. *Its Duties.*—It belongs to the Presbytery, by virtue of the official authority of its members, to hear and issue complaints and appeals from church Sessions, and references for advice or adjudication, to admit and have the care of students of theology, to examine and license candidates for the holy ministry, to ordain, install, remove and try ministers of the gospel, to examine and approve or censure the records of church Sessions, to visit particular churches for the purpose of inquiring into their state, and redressing evils which may have arisen in them, to organize, unite, or divide congregations, and in general to order whatever pertains to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the churches under its care.

5. *Quorum.*—Two ministers, with one or more elders duly appointed, or three ministers, met at the time and place appointed, shall be a quorum competent to transact business.

6. *Regular and Special Meetings.*—The Presbytery shall meet on its own adjournment; but when any emergency shall require a meeting sooner than the time to which it had adjourned, the moderator, or in case of his inability to act, the stated clerk, has power to call a meeting; and shall always do so at the request of two members.

Care must be taken that sufficient notice be given of the intended meeting; and the moderator or clerk (as the case may be) shall, in connection with his notice of the time and place, specify the particular business for which it is called, and nothing else shall be transacted at such meeting, unless by the unanimous consent of the members present.

7. *Records and Reports.*—Presbytery shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, subject to the inspection of Synod. It shall also report its proceedings to Synod every year, with details in reference to students, licensures, ordinations, installations, dissolution of pastoral relations, organization, union or division of congregations, and, in general, whatever important changes may have taken place within its bounds during the year. A like report shall also be submitted to the General Assembly.

8. *Opening and Closing Exercises.*—At every stated meeting of Presbytery, a sermon shall be preached, if convenient, and every particular session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

9. *Corresponding Members.*—Ministers in good standing in other Presbyteries, being present, may be invited to sit as corresponding members. Such members may deliberate and advise, but shall not vote.

ARTICLE III.

THE SYNOD.

1. *Members.*—The Synod is the next higher court of the church, and consists of ministers and duly commissioned elders of two or more Presbyteries.

2. *Divine Authority.*—As a Synod is in fact but a larger Presbytery, its authority is the same, and it is to be constituted and regulated in accordance with the same general principles.

3. *Duties.*—It belongs to the Synod to hear and issue complaints, appeals and references regularly brought up from the Presbyteries, to examine and approve or censure the records of Presbyteries, to organize, unite or divide Presbyteries, to propose to the General Assembly such measures as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the whole church, and in general to take such order with respect to Presbyteries, Sessions and the people under its care, as may, in conformity with the word of God and the established rules of the church, tend to promote the edification, purity, peace and prosperity of the church.

4. *Quorum.*—One-fourth of the ministers of the Synod, if from two or more Presbyteries, convened at the time and place appointed, with as many ruling elders entitled to sit as may be present, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. *Regular and Special Meetings.*—The Synod shall convene at least once every year, meeting on its own adjournment. On a special emergency, it may be convened by the call of the moderator, on the application of a Presbytery; in this case, the call shall be made, and the business limited, as in a special meeting of Presbytery.

6. *Opening and Closing Exercises.*—At the opening of every meeting, a sermon shall be delivered by the moderator, or his alternate, or in case of the absence or inability of both, by the oldest minister present, who shall occupy the chair till another moderator be chosen; and every particular session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

7. *Records and Reports.*—The Synod shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, and submit it annually to the inspection of the General Assembly, properly attested by the moderator and clerk.

ARTICLE IV.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. *The Highest Court.*—The General Assembly is the highest court of the church. It is the great Presbytery in which the entire church is represented. It may be an aggregate or delegate body.*

2. *Its Members.*—The General Assembly of this church shall consist of an equal delegation of ministers and ruling elders from each Presbytery, in the following proportion, viz: each Presbytery consisting of not more than seven ministers, shall be entitled to send one minister and one ruling elder; each Presbytery consisting of more than seven ministers, and not more than fourteen, shall be entitled to send two ministers and two ruling elders; and in a like proportion for any number of ministers beyond fourteen; and delegates so appointed shall be styled Commissioners to the General Assembly.

3. *Its Duties.*—The General Assembly shall have power to receive and decide all appeals, references and complaints regularly brought before it; to review and approve or censure the records of

*Acts xv.

Synods; to resolve questions of doctrine or discipline reasonably and seriously proposed; to warn and testify against any error in doctrine or immorality in practice; to organize, unite or divide Synods; to establish and regulate theological seminaries so as to secure uniformity in the course and term of study; to conduct the missionary operations of the church; to correspond with other branches of the church; and in general to adopt measures to promote truth and holiness throughout its bounds, and be a bond of union, peace, concord and mutual confidence.

4. *Cases of Discipline; Special Provision.*—The General Assembly, at its discretion, may refer appeals in cases of discipline to a commission invested with its own authority, or to an inferior court, for final adjudication.

5. *Overtures.*—Before any regulation affecting the doctrine, worship or government of the church shall be adopted or made binding on the church, it shall be transmitted in overture to all the Presbyteries, and be approved by at least a majority of the votes of the whole church. These votes are to be taken in the Presbytery, each minister and ruling elder in the Presbytery being entitled to vote. The vote shall be taken yea or nay, carefully recorded, and reported by the clerk of the Presbytery to the General Assembly at its next meeting. When a clear majority of the votes of the whole church is in the affirmative, the General Assembly shall enact such regulations, unless peculiar circumstances should, in the view of two-thirds of the whole delegation to the Assembly, render it inexpedient.

6. *Quorum.*—One-third of all the delegates duly commissioned, being assembled at the time and place appointed, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

7. *Meeting and Constituting.*—The General Assembly shall meet at least once every year. At the time appointed, the moderator of the last Assembly, or his alternate, or, in their absence, the oldest minister present, shall open the meeting with a sermon, constitute the Assembly, and preside until a new moderator is chosen.

8. *Commissions.*—Every commissioner to the General Assembly must produce a commission signed by the moderator and clerk of the Presbytery by which he is sent; nor can he, without such commission, be entitled to a seat.

9. *Dissolution.*—Each session of the Assembly shall be opened and closed with prayer; and when the business is finished, and a vote taken to dissolve the Assembly, the moderator shall say from the chair: "By virtue of authority to me delegated, I do hereby dissolve this General Assembly, and require another General Assembly, chosen in the same manner, to meet at ———— on the ———— day of ————, A. D. ——." After which he shall close the sessions by prayer, praise and the apostolic benediction.

ARTICLE V.

THE OFFICERS OF COURTS.

1. *Their Names.*—Every court of the church must have a moderator, a clerk and a treasurer.

2. *Moderator.*—The pastor of the congregation is the standing moderator of its Session. The moderator of the Presbytery shall be chosen for a year or for a shorter period, as the Presbytery may judge best. The moderator of the Synod and of the General Assembly shall be chosen at each meeting of these courts. The moderator possesses, by delegation from the whole body, all authority necessary for preserving good order, for constituting and adjourning the court, and for directing its proceedings according to the rules of the church.

3. *Clerk.*—The clerk may be either a member of the court or not, as shall be deemed expedient: he shall continue in office during its pleasure, and shall perform all such duties as are enjoined upon the clerk by the rules of the court.

4. *Treasurer.*—The treasurer may also be either a member of the court or not, as shall be deemed expedient, and shall continue in office during its pleasure. He shall perform all such duties as are enjoined upon him by the rules of the court.

PART II.

General Administration.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORGANIZATION OF CONGREGATIONS.

1. *Congregations.*—A congregation is a society of individuals, agreeing in their religious views, and associated for the support and enjoyment of divine ordinances, with some of them chosen and ordained to bear office and manage their affairs in a regular and orderly way.

2. *New Congregations.*—When a congregation becomes too numerous to meet conveniently in one place for public worship, or when, for any other reason, it would promote the general interests of the church to organize a new congregation, the person so judging shall make application to the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside, setting forth the necessity or propriety of such organization. Whenever application for this purpose is made, notice shall be given by the Presbytery to the Session of the congregation that may be affected by the new organization, before the petition is granted.

3. *Organization.*—If, after hearing the reasons, the Presbytery determines to grant the application, it shall appoint a minister and two ruling elders, if practicable, to carry the object into effect; and they, having given due notice to the persons who are to compose the new congregation, of the time and place of meeting for said purpose, shall, after the usual exercises of public worship, proceed to hold an election for the proper officers.

4. *Organization, when the Applicants are Members.*—When the persons who are to compose the new congregation are already members of the church in full communion, the election of officers, whether ruling elders or deacons, shall be conducted as in congregations already organized.

5. *When not Members.*—But when the applicants are not in communion, or are too few to afford an opportunity of making a suitable election, the minister appointed shall first converse with all who propose to unite in forming the congregation; and being satisfied with their religious attainments and character, he shall, on the day appointed for the organization, publicly receive them by proposing the questions hereinafter prescribed in Chap. II., Sec. 6. The election shall then be conducted in the prescribed way.

6. *Ordination of Officers.*—When the election is over, the minister shall announce to the congregation the names of the persons duly elected; and on their agreeing to accept the office, and having been examined by him as to their qualifications for, and their views in undertaking it, a day shall be appointed for their ordination, the edict served, and the ordination conducted as in other congregations.

7. *Report to Presbytery.*—The presiding minister shall report to the Presbytery his procedure in the case, with the names of the officers who have been chosen and ordained. And these, with the name of the congregation, shall be entered on the Presbytery's list.

CHAPTER II.

THE ADMISSION OF CHURCH MEMBERS.

1. *Necessity of Care.*—The peace, unity, purity and prosperity of the church depend, in a great measure, on the character of its members, and the greatest care should be exercised by its officers in the admission of persons to its communion.

2. *Admitted by Session.*—In organized congregations, none are to be admitted to membership, but by the Session constituted.

3. *Mode of Application.*—Persons who desire admission to the fellowship of the church should intimate their desire to the pastor or officiating minister, or to an elder, who shall converse with them in relation to the profession and practice required by the word of God, and the subordinate standards of the church, and shall examine them on their religious knowledge and experience; and it shall be the duty of the minister to give at all times an opportunity for religious conversation.

4. *Examination by the Session.*—The minister or elder shall then report without delay the names of applicants, and the result of their examination, to the Session, that there may be time to inquire into their character and conversation. If any of the applicants cannot be attested by some member of the Session, it will be the duty of the Session to require of them some satisfactory testimonials of good moral character; and such further examination shall then be had, as the Session may judge necessary, to determine their right to membership as communicants.

5. *Special Cases.*—The same regulation shall be observed with respect to applications from persons of other denominations, and members who have been more than a year absent, and do not produce satisfactory testimonials, or who have been debarred, by a judicial sentence, from the communion of the church, and are desirous of re-admission.

6. *Manner of Admission.*—Having satisfied the Session respecting their knowledge, principles, motives and character, applicants shall be received, on answering affimatively the following formula of questions, in presence of the Session alone, or, which is earnestly recommended, in presence of the congregation, viz.:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God, the infallible and only rule of faith and practice?

II. Do you profess your adherence to the doctrines received by this church as set forth in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, and Declarations of the Testimony; and do you approve of the Form of Government and Directory for Worship adopted by this church, so far as you have been enabled to understand them, as agreeable to and founded on the word of God?

III. Do you profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; your acceptance of him as your Saviour, and your resolution, through grace, to continue in the faith; to be subject to the order and discipline of God's house; to be diligent in your attendance upon divine ordinances, both teaching and sealing, according to your profession; on secret prayer; on family worship, morning and evening, unless providentially hindered; and in the performance of all other duties incumbent on you, whatever station you may occupy in life; that you will study to promote the peace, purity and prosperity of this congregation, while you remain a member thereof; and that you will make conscience of promoting the cause of Christ and his truth, as by other means, so especially by a holy and godly conversation?

IV. Do you make this profession as in the presence of God, in reliance on his grace, and as you desire to give in your account with joy at the great day?

7. *Exhortation.*—After proposing these questions, the moderator shall address a word of exhortation to the newly-admitted members, setting before them the importance of the relation into which they have entered, and their obligation to live holy lives.

CHAPTER III.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS.

1. *Testimonials.*—The good order of the church requires that members removing from one congregation to another shall produce satisfactory testimonials of Christian character and good standing in the church.

2. *Who Entitled to Them.*—Any member in good standing in the church is entitled to a certificate of dismission from the congregation to which he belongs.

3. *Special Cases.*—Members removing from the bounds of a congregation, and neglecting to apply for a certificate at the time, are, as a general rule, to be certified only up to the time of their removal.

4. *Limitation of Time.*—No certificate of church membership shall be considered valid, if it is more than one year old, except in cases where there has been no opportunity of presenting it.

CHAPTER IV.

STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY.

1. *Receiving and Training Students.*—As an able and godly ministry is of the utmost importance to the church, Presbyteries should exercise the greatest care in receiving and training young men for this office.

2. *Qualifications.*—Students of theology should be of good moral character and unexceptionable standing in the church; they should give evidence of a saving acquaintance with divine things, and manifest an intelligent attachment to the principles of their profession, and should possess such talents and attainments as will fit them to prosecute, with advantage, theological studies, and give promise of public usefulness.

3. *Under the Care of Presbytery.*—Every student of theology shall place himself under the care of some Presbytery, and be subject to its authority. If at any time he is in the bounds of another Presbytery, it shall exercise due care over him, and, if need be, report any matter in relation to his deportment to his proper Presbytery.

CHAPTER V.

PROBATIONERS.

1. *Necessity of Probation.*—The Holy Scriptures require that trial be made of those who are to be ordained to the gospel ministry, that this sacred office be not committed to weak and unworthy men; and it is right that the churches should have opportunity to judge of the qualifications of those by whom they are to be instructed and governed. To this end, Presbyteries shall license probationers to preach the gospel, who, after a competent trial of their gifts, and a good report from the churches, may be ordained to the sacred office*.

2. *When Admitted to License.*—In ordinary cases, no student of theology shall be admitted to trials for license until he has completed a course of theological study of three full years, after the time of his admission by the Presbytery, and produced testimonials of good conduct and proficiency in his studies.

3. *Examination and Trials.*—The Presbytery shall examine each candidate for the ministry as to his knowledge of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages, of the ordinary branches of literature and science, of theology, natural and revealed, ecclesiastical history and church government (unless otherwise satisfied of his attainments in these several branches), the distinguishing principles of our religious profession, and specially of his personal piety and his motives in desiring the office of the gospel ministry. And to make trials of his talents to explain, vindicate and practically enforce the doctrines of the gospel, the Presbytery shall require him to deliver before them the following exercises, viz.:

1. A Critical Exercise.
2. A Homily.
3. A Lecture.
4. A Popular Sermon.

4. *Specimens of Progress.*—In addition to these, it is expedient that specimens of progress be delivered from time to time during his theological course.

5. *Mode of License.*—The Presbytery being satisfied with the examination and trials of the candidate, and having sustained them,

---

* 1 Tim. iii. 6; 2 Tim. ii. 2; 3 John 12.

and decided to license him, the moderator shall propose to him the prescribed formula of questions (see Chap. VI., Art. II.), except such as necessarily imply investiture with office; and if these questions are satisfactorily answered, he shall proceed to license him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the everlasting gospel, as a probationer, for the holy ministry. It is proper that the moderator accompany the act of licensure with a suitable word of exhortation.

6. *Certificate.*—A certificate of licensure, signed by the moderator and clerk of the Presbytery, shall be given to probationers.

7. *Subject to Presbytery.*—All probationers shall be under the direction and fulfill the appointments of the Presbytery to which they belong, or into whose bounds they may be regularly sent.

8. *Limitation of Time.*—Probationers shall be licensed for three years; if not ordained at the end of this time, the license may, at the discretion of the Presbytery, be renewed for two years more; if not ordained at the end of this time, it may be renewed for one year more; if at the end of this time their services do not appear to be edifying to the church, the Presbytery should recall their license.

CHAPTER VI.

THE ELECTION, ORDINATION, ETC., OF PASTORS.

Though the authority by which the officers of the church hold their respective offices is conferred through ordination, their right to exercise their office statedly in any congregation depends on their election by the people.

ARTICLE I.

ELECTION.

1. *Preparatory Steps.*—When a congregation desires a pastor, the elders shall convene the members, that they may petition the Presbytery under whose inspection they are, for the appointment of a member of Presbytery to preside in the moderation of a call. They shall also, at the same time, appoint one or more of their own number to present their petition, and give such information in relation to the condition and prospects of the congregation, and the support which they intend to give their pastor, as the Presbytery may require.

2. *Time of Election.*—If the moderation is granted, the Presbytery shall appoint one of its own number to preach on a week-day, as soon as convenient, in the usual place of worship of the said congregation, and to moderate in a call. But if, from any unexpected circumstance, a large number of the people has been prevented from attending on the appointed day, the minister may defer the election another week, without a new order from Presbytery.

3. *Moderation.*—On the day appointed, at the close of public worship, the minister shall state the object of the meeting, read a blank call in the hearing of the congregation, and, after prayer for divine direction, call for the nomination of a candidate; then, having twice distinctly announced the name of the nominee, he shall call upon all who favor the nomination to hold up their right hands, and after-

wards all who oppose it. If there is more than one candidate, the presiding minister shall take the vote by ballot.

4. *Electors and Elected.*—None are entitled to vote in the election of a pastor but such as are in full communion at the time of the election; and no candidate shall be considered as elected who has not a majority of all the votes.

5. *Call Signed and Transmitted.*—After the election, the result shall be announced, the blank in the call filled, and the electors requested to come forward and sign the call. It shall be signed, first by the elders and deacons, and then by the members. Ordinary hearers, though not entitled to vote, may sign the call as adherents. The call thus subscribed, when attested by the presiding minister, shall be transmitted to the Presbytery by a commissioner or commissioners duly appointed.

6. *When there is Opposition.*—If a minority is opposed to the candidate elect, the moderator shall endeavor to persuade them to acquiesce in the choice of their brethren. But if this minority is large, and steadily refuses to acquiesce, he shall report the facts to the Presbytery, that it may judge what is best for the interests and peace of the congregation.

7. *Call Sustained; Interested Presbyteries.*—The call must be sustained as regular by the Presbytery before presentation to the candidate; and when it is known or believed that any other Presbytery is concerned in the matter, information shall be given to that Presbytery before the presentation.

8. *By Whom Presented.*—No minister or probationer shall receive a call, except through the Presbytery to which he belongs. When a call is presented and accepted, the way is open to ordination and installation.

ARTICLE II.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION.

1. *Trials and Examination.*—When a call has been accepted by a probationer, the Presbytery shall put him on trial for ordination. He shall be required to deliver at least two public discourses—a lecture and a popular sermon; and shall be examined (as far as Presbytery may deem it necessary), on personal religion, theology, natural and revealed, the original languages of the Holy Scriptures, ecclesiastical history and church government, pastoral duties, and the distinctive principles of this church.

2. *Edict.*—The trials having been approved by the Presbytery, it shall appoint a day for the ordination of the candidate; and shall also cause an edict to be read to the congregation, at least ten days before the day of ordination, purporting that "the Presbytery having received a call for Mr. A. B., preacher of the gospel, to be their pastor, and finding nothing to hinder his settlement among them, will ordain and install him accordingly, if no valid objection be seasonably offered."

3. *Edict Returned; Objections.*—The Presbytery having met at the time specified in the "edict," the person appointed to serve it, or, in his absence, one of the Session, shall return it certified that it has been duly served. The Presbytery shall then make proclamation in

the church that it is now assembled and ready to hear any objections in the life and doctrine of the candidate. If no objections are made, the Presbytery shall proceed with the ordination; but if any are made, the Presbytery shall carefully consider them, and shall either sustain or overrule them, as their nature and proof may render necessary.

4. *Fast Day.*—On the day of ordination it may be expedient that a solemn fast be observed in the congregation, that its members may more earnestly join in public prayer for the Lord's blessing on his ordinances, and on the labors of his servant to whom the administration of these among them is about to be committed.

5. *Sermon; Narrative.*—If no valid objection to the ordination is offered, a member of Presbytery, previously appointed, shall preach a sermon adapted to the occasion. Then the member appointed to preside shall briefly narrate the proceedings of the Presbytery preparatory to this transaction, and request the candidate to present himself. The following questions shall then be proposed to him:

(*Questions for Ministers.*)—I. Do you believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of the living God, the infallible and only rule of faith and practice?

II. Do you believe and acknowledge the doctrines professed by this church, contained in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, and the Declarations of the Testimony, as agreeable to, and founded on, the word of God; and are you resolved, through divine grace, to maintain and adhere to the same against all opposing errors?

III. Do you approve the Presbyterial Form of Church Government and the Directory for Worship, received by this church, as agreeable to, and founded on, the word of God, and are you resolved, by the grace of God, to maintain and defend them?

IV. Do you promise to submit, in the spirit of meekness, to the admonitions of the brethren of this Presbytery, in subordination to the Synod and General Assembly; and do you promise to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, and that you will not follow divisive courses, either by complying with the defections of the times, or giving yourself up to a detestable neutrality in the cause of God?

V. Are not zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus, and a desire to be useful in edifying the church of Christ, the chief motives which induce you to seek the ministerial office, and the pastoral care of this congregation?

VI. Have you used any improper means to procure your call to the office of pastor in this congregation?

VII. Do you promise, through grace, to perform all the duties incumbent on you with zeal and fidelity—following after righteousness, faith, charity?

VIII. Are you now willing to take charge of this congregation agreeably to your declaration at accepting its call; and do you promise to perform all the duties of a pastor, to preach the gospel, not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in purity and simplicity, not shunning to declare the whole counsel of God; to cate-

chize and exhort from house to house; to visit the sick, and to perform whatever other duties are incumbent on you as a faithful minister of Christ, for the convincing and reclaiming of sinners, and for building up saints in their most holy faith?

IX. Do you make these promises as in the presence of God, in reliance on his grace, and as you would desire to give in your account with joy at the great day of the Redeemer's appearance, when he shall come, and all his saints with him, to judge the quick and the dead?

6. Satisfactory answers having been given to these questions, the presiding minister shall propose to the people the following questions, viz.:

(*Questions for the People.*)—I. Do you, the people of this congregation, still profess your readiness to receive Mr. A. B., whom you have called to be your pastor?

II. Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love; and to submit to him in the due exercise of his authority?

III. Do you promise to encourage him in his labors for your instruction and edification; and do you engage to give him, while he is your pastor, a competent worldly support, and whatever else you see to be needful for the honor of religion, and his comfort among you?

7. *Ordination Ceremony.*—The people having answered these questions in the affirmative by holding up their right hands, the candidate shall kneel. Then the presiding minister shall, by prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, solemnly ordain him to the office of the holy ministry.* After prayer, the presiding minister first, and the other members in order, shall take him by the right hand, saying, "We give you the right hand of fellowship, to take part of this ministry with us."† An appropriate charge shall then be delivered to both pastor and people. After prayer, praise and the benediction, the congregation shall be invited to come forward, and, in token of their regard, to take their pastor by the hand.

8. *Ordination Without Installation.*—There may be emergencies in which it is desirable and necessary that a licentiate be ordained to the gospel ministry without a pastoral charge; in such cases the questions of the formula having reference to a pastoral charge must be modified according to the circumstances.

9. *Installation of Ministers Previously Ordained.*—Installation, which is the establishment of the relation between a pastor and his congregation, shall always accompany ordination when a call has been accepted. Installation may, in case of a minister previously ordained, be performed by the Presbytery, or a committee appointed for that purpose, in the following manner, viz: A day shall be appointed for the installation, and due notice shall be given to the congregation. The Presbytery or committee, having met on the day appointed, shall proceed as in the case of ordination and installation. The member who presides shall then propose to the minister to be

* Acts xiii. 2, 3; 1 Tim. iv. 14.
† Gal. ii. 9; Acts i. 25; 2 Tim. iv. 1, 2.

installed, the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth questions of the formula for ministers at their ordination, together with the following: "And all this you promise in agreeableness to your ordination engagements, and in humble reliance upon divine grace?" Having received satisfactory answers to all these, he shall propose to the people the questions prescribed in Section 6 of this Article; which having been answered in the affirmative by holding up the right hand, he shall solemnly declare said minister to be regularly constituted pastor of that congregation. A charge shall then be given to both parties; and after prayer, praise and the benediction, the members of the congregation shall come forward and give their pastor the right hand in token of their cordial reception and affectionate regard.

ARTICLE III.

TRANSLATION.

1. *Propriety of Translation.*—As a minister of the gospel is by his office related to the whole church, he may, for sufficient reasons, be removed from one pastoral charge to another, but not without his own consent.

2. *By the Authority of Presbytery.*—No minister shall be translated from one charge to another, nor shall a call for that purpose be presented to him, but by the authority of the Presbytery of which he is a member.

3. *Caution Necessary.*—The important interests that are involved in the translation of ministers, and the danger of creating jealousies and dissensions, by which the peace and comfort of congregations may be distured, render it obligatory on Presbyteries to proceed with great caution.

4. *Manner of Call.*—A call for a settled minister shall be prepared and prosecuted in the same manner as one for a probationer or minister without charge.

5. *Manner of Translation, when the Minister and Congregation belong to same Presbytery.*—Before presenting a call to a minister who is pastor of another congregation, the Presbytery shall require the congregation calling, by commissioners, to represent to the Presbytery the grounds on which his translation is asked. Presbytery shall also cite the congregation whose minister is called, to appear at its next meeting, to show cause, by commissioners or in writing, why the call should not be presented, and the translation take place. This citation shall be read from the pulpit of that church, immediately after public worship, at least two weeks before the meeting of Presbytery at which the matter is to be heard. If the congregation sends no representation, by commissioners or otherwise, against the removal of its pastor, and if the Presbytery is satisfied with the reasons assigned for the proposed translation, it shall forthwith present the call; and if accepted, it shall dissolve the pastoral relation already existing, and translate the candidate to the other congregation. The day of his installation shall be fixed, and a person appointed to serve the edict. But if the congregation whose pastor is called oppose the removal, the Presbytery shall hear the parties, and after careful and serious deliberation, either continue him in his

present charge or translate him, as may be deemed most for the edification of the church; or it may refer the whole matter to the Synod for advice.

6. *When they Belong to Different Presbyteries.*—When the minister called and the congregation calling belong to different Presbyteries, the Presbytery which has sustained the call shall transmit it, together with a statement of the grounds on which his translation is asked, to the Presbytery of which he is a member, that it may be presented; or it may authorize the congregation to prosecute the call by commissioners before that Presbytery, and that Presbytery, having cited him and his congregation, shall proceed to hear and issue the case, as before directed. If it agrees to his translation, it shall release him from his charge, and give him proper testimonials to the Presbytery within whose bounds the congregation calling lies. This Presbytery, having received a certificate of his release, shall proceed to install him in his new charge, as soon as practicable.

7. *Reasons for Translation.*—The Presbytery shall always enter upon its minutes the reasons for translating a minister, and when that act is likely to give much dissatisfaction to his people, a copy of these reasons shall be sent to them by their commissioners.

ARTICLE IV.

DISSOLUTION.

1. *Authority of Presbytery Necessary.*—As the authority of Presbytery is necessary to the formation of the pastoral relation, so it shall be to its dissolution.

2. *Application and Reasons for Dissolution.*—When circumstances arise, which seem to render a dissolution of the pastoral relation necessary, application to this end may be made either by the pastor or people, or by both united, and it shall in all cases be accompanied with a statement of the reasons for which it is urged.

3. *Application by Pastor or Congregation.*—If the application is made by the pastor, the congregation shall be cited to appear, as in the case of translation; and if the application is from the congregation, the pastor shall be cited to appear, and show cause why the application should not be granted. As this is a matter important in its nature and consequences, the Presbytery shall give it the careful and serious deliberation prescribed in the matter of translation from one charge to another.

4. *If the Application is Granted.*—If, upon due consideration of the case, the Presbytery shall judge it for edification to grant the petition, the congregation shall be declared vacant, and the minister who has thus been released shall remain subject to the orders of the Presbytery.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ELECTION, ORDINATION, ETC., OF ELDERS AND DEACONS.

ARTICLE I.

ELECTION.

1. *When Necessary.*—In organized congregations, it is the province of the existing Session to judge when an election of additional

elders may be necessary, and of the Session and deacons to judge when an election of deacons may be necessary, and to proceed to such election without any application to the Presbytery.

2. *Previous Notice.*—When an election of ruling elders or deacons in any congregation has been appointed, notice shall be given at least ten days previously, that the people may consult among themselves, and fix upon some suitable persons.

3. *Nominations.*—On the day appointed for the election, which shall be some week-day, days of fasting and thanksgiving excepted, after the close of public worship, the moderator shall state the object of the meeting, and after prayer for divine direction, if the Session has previously agreed upon suitable persons, shall nominate them to the congregation; yet this shall not preclude the nomination of others by any member of the congregation.

4. *Eligible to Office; Voters.*—In such election, none shall be eligible to office, but male members, and none are entitled to vote, but members in full communion in the congregation at the time of the election.

5. *Manner of Election.*—Nominations having been made, the vote shall be taken. It may be taken either with the uplifted hand, or in such manner as the Session may approve, care being taken that it be a fair and unbiased expression of the will of the people; and no person shall be considered as elected, unless he has a majority of the whole number of votes.

6. *Result of Election.*—The result of the election shall be publicly announced by the moderator, and if it is in a vacant congregation, he shall make report of it to the Presbytery, as in the case of organization.

ARTICLE II.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION.

1. *Examination.*—Before the ordination of ruling elders and deacons, the Session shall meet to examine the persons elect as to their acceptance of the office, their views in undertaking it, and their qualifications for it.

2. *Previous Notice.*—The persons elected having been approved, and having declared their willingness to accept the office, a day shall be appointed for their ordination, and at least ten days' notice shall be given to the congregation.

3. *Edict.*—The public notice of such an appointment shall be accompanied with the serving of an edict, which is a public intimation that if any person has any thing to object against the faith or conversation of any of the officers elect, such objection shall be given in by a specified time, otherwise the ordination shall take place.

4. *The Ceremony of Ordination.*—If no valid objection is offered, the presiding minister shall, after sermon, briefly narrate the proceeding already had, and the candidates for ordination presenting themselves before the congregation, he shall propose to them the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of the living God, the infallible and only rule of faith and practice?

II. Do you believe and acknowledge the doctrines professed by this church, contained in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, and the Declarations of the Testimony, as agreeable to, and founded on, the word of God; and are you resolved, through divine grace, to maintain and adhere to the same against all opposing errors?

III. Do you approve the Presbyterial Form of Church Government and the Directory for Worship, received by this church, as agreeable to, and founded on, the word of God; and are you resolved, by the grace of God, to maintain and defend them?

IV. Do you promise to submit, in the spirit of meekness, to the admonitions of the brethren of this Session, in subordination to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly; and do you promise to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that you will not follow divisive courses, either by complying with the defections of the times, or giving yourself up to a detestable neutrality in the cause of God?

V. Are not zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus, and a desire to be useful in edifying the church of Christ, the chief motives which induce you to accept the office of ruling elder [or deacon] in this congregation?

VI. Have you used any improper means to procure your call to the office of ruling elder [or deacon] in this congregation?

VII. Do you promise, through grace, to perform all the duties incumbent on you with zeal and fidelity, following after righteousness, faith, charity?

VIII. (*For Ruling Elders.*)—Do you now accept the call to the office of ruling elder in this congregation, agreeably to your former declaration; and do you promise, through grace, diligently to discharge the duties of that office, to be faithful and impartial in the exercise of discipline, and to be punctual in attending the meetings of Session, and superior judicatories, as you may be required?

IX. (*For Deacons.*)—Do you now accept the call to the office of deacon in this congregation, agreeably to your declaration; and do you promise to attend to the wants of the poor with Christian meekness and tenderness, and to manage all such temporalities of the church as may be committed to your care with diligence and fidelity, according to the concurrent advice and directions of the Session?

X. (*For Elders and Deacons.*)—Do you make these promises as in the presence of God, in reliance on his grace, and as you would desire to give in your account with joy at the great day of the Redeemer's appearance, when he shall come, and all his saints with him, to judge the quick and the dead?

These being satisfactorily answered, he shall propose to the members of the congregation the following questions:

Do you, the members of this congregation, adhere to your choice of, and receive this brother as a ruling elder [or deacon]; and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement and obedience, in the Lord, to which his office entitles him? The members of

the congregation having answered this question in the affirmative, by holding up their right hands, the moderator shall proceed to set apart the candidates by prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Session. After prayer he shall exhort both officers and people to their respective duties.

5. *Recognition of the New Officers.*—At the close of the service it is proper that the officers of the congregation, in presence of the people, take the newly ordained officers by the hand, saying, "We give unto you the right hand of fellowship, to take part of this office with us." And before the Session adjourns, a record of the ordination shall be inserted in the minutes.

6. *Officers Removing to Another Congregation.*—An elder or deacon removing from his own into another congregation, and presenting satisfactory testimonials of his personal and official conduct, may, if approved by the Session, and duly elected by the congregation, be installed as an elder or deacon without a new ordination.

7. *Reported to Presbytery.*—A list of officers in every congregation, with the time of their ordination, is to be given by the minister to the Presbytery.

PART III.

DISCIPLINE.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

1. *Definition.*—Discipline is the exercise of that authority with which the Lord Jesus Christ has clothed the officers of his church to deal with offenders according to the laws which he has given in his word.*

2. *Necessity and Objects.*—Discipline is necessary, because in the imperfect and mingled state of the visible church, disorders will arise, not only among carnal professors, but also from remaining corruption among the truly gracious.† Its object is to vindicate the honor and authority of Jesus Christ,‡ to maintain the purity of his ordinances and of his truth,§ to avert judgments which are threatened on account of offences connived at,‖ to preserve the cause of God for posterity,¶ to reclaim offenders,** to warn others that they may fear,†† and, in general, to preserve and promote the purity, peace and edification of the church.

3. *Ground of Discipline.*—An offence is any thing in the avowed belief or in the practice of a church member which is contrary to the word of God and the standards of the church, or which in its nature and circumstances is calculated to lead others into sin.‡‡

4. *Necessity of Fidelity and Wisdom.*—Discipline requires, in the office-bearers of the church, not only fidelity and firmness, but also tenderness and moderation, wisdom and discrimination. Scandals of the same kind cannot always be treated in the same manner, in consequence of the different circumstances that may attend them, rendering them more or less offensive.§§

5. *Baptized Members.*—All baptized persons, being members of the church, are under its care, and subject to its authority and discipline, and, having attained the years of discretion, are bound to perform all the duties of church members.

---

* Acts xv. 25–29; Rev. ii. 2, 3.
† Matt. xviii, 7. 15–17.
‡ Ezek. xxii. 26; xliv. 6-8.
§ Rev. ii. 2, 3.
‖ Rev. ii 5-16.
¶ Ps. lxxviii. 5-8.
** 1 Cor. v. 5.
†† 1 Tim. v. 20.
‡‡ Rom. xiv. 13, 20, 21; Rev. ii. 14.
§§ 1 Tim. i, 20; Gal. v. 12; Jude 22, 23.

CHAPTER II.

OFFENCES.

1. *Different Kinds.*—Offences are either personal or general, and may be either private or public; and the procedure will vary in some respects, in reference to these several classes.

2. *Personal; General.*—A personal offence is a violation of the divine law, considered in the character of a wrong or injury done to an individual, or to individuals. A general offence is any heresy or immorality having no personal relation, or apart from it.

3. *Private; Public.*—Private offences are such as are known only to an individual, or, at most, to a few persons. Public offences are such as are generally known, or are known to many persons.

CHAPTER III.

THE PARTIES IN CASES OF PROCESS.

1. *Personal Offences.*—In cases of personal offences, the injured party, whether the offence be public or private, must use the means prescribed by our Lord* for bringing the offender to a sense of his error, and effecting a reconciliation, before he can be admitted as a prosecutor. Failure to comply with our Lord's direction, by any one lodging information against another, is itself an offence subjecting the informer to censure. As, however, the interests of religion may require a judicial investigation of a personal offence as general, the settlement of the matter between the parties shall not preclude a church court from investigating it.

2. *Private Offences.*—In all cases of private offences, he to whom they are known is bound to use the above named private means for the removal of the scandal, and no one can be admitted as an accuser who has not complied with this rule. Where a private offence is known only to an individual, and is therefore not susceptible of legal proof, it is, after serious and close dealing, to be left between God and the offender's conscience.

3. *General Offences.*—General offences may be brought before a court either by an individual appearing as an accuser, and undertaking to substantiate the charge; or by information, where the informer declines to appear as a prosecutor; or by common fame.

4. *Prosecutions by Common Fame.*—In prosecutions by common fame, the previous steps required by our Lord in relation to personal offences, are not necessary; yet circumstances may be such as to render it proper for the court to appoint a committee of inquiry, in order to ascertain whether the case is such as requires judicial investigation and can be prosecuted to conviction, and also to converse with the offender, and endeavor to bring him to a sense of his sin, without actual process.

5. *Caution Necessary.*—Taking up charges on the ground of common fame, requires caution and prudence on the part of the court, inasmuch as it is not every report that amounts to this. It

---

* Matt. xviii. 15-17.

must first be determined that a common fame really exists; and no rumor is to be regarded as such, unless it specifies some particular sin or sins, and is general, or widely spread, not transient, but permanent, is generally believed, and accompanied with a strong presumption of truth.

6. *Rumors.*—As, however, a rumor may exist, not amounting to common fame, affecting the character of an individual, the person affected thereby may request a judicial investigation for his own vindication, and it may be proper for the court to grant the request.

7. *Informer.*—In cases taken up on information, the name of the informer may be withheld at the discretion of the court; but if the innocence of the party accused is clearly made out, the court shall inquire whether the informer acted through malice, or imprudence, or otherwise, and deal with him accordingly.

8. *Prosecutor.*—In all cases of process on the ground of common fame, or by information, where the informer refuses to appear, the court may appoint one of its members to act as prosecutor in the management of the case. A Session may appoint any person under its jurisdiction.

9. *Form of Charges; Libel; Complaint.*—All charges must be drawn up in the form of libel or complaint. A libel is a written charge preferred against an individual or individuals, in argumentative form. It first specifies the offence as censurable, and cites authorities from Scripture and the standards of the church to prove this; then charges the offence in point of fact on the accused by name, including the names of witnesses, and, as far as practicable, a specification of time and place, and concludes with the inference that he ought to be censured. A complaint differs from this in omitting the first part; in other respects it is the same, and, as the relevancy of the charge must be determined by the court, the latter form is sufficient in all ordinary cases.

10. *Parties.*—The original and only parties to a trial are the accuser and the accused; and in cases where the court appoints the accuser, he shall exercise all the rights of an original party. These parties shall be known in the appellate courts as the appellant and appellee.

11. *Responsibility of an Accuser.*—In receiving the charges, no person can be admitted as an accuser, who is known to indulge an evil spirit toward the accused, is not of good fame, is under process or censure; and great caution should be exercised where the accuser is rash, litigious or imprudent. Persons who appear as accusers, or who undertake to substantiate a charge, shall be held subject to censure, if they fail in proof, unless it appears that there were strong presumptions of the guilt of the accused.

CHAPTER IV.

ACTUAL PROCESS.

1. *Charge Tabled and Citations Issued.*—When all other means of removing an offence have failed, the court shall judicially take it into consideration. At the first meeting of the court, when a libel

or complaint has been tabled, no further proceedings shall be had, unless by consent of parties, than to furnish the accused with a copy of the libel or complaint and a list of the witnesses annexed, and to cite all concerned to appear at its next meeting. Notice shall be given to the parties and witnesses at least ten days before the meeting; but if the parties are present when the charge is received, and the time and place of trial appointed, that shall be held as sufficient citation and notification.

2. *When the Accused is Absent.*—If the accused party is absent when the charge is received, and trial appointed, a citation with notification of time and place of trial, and a list of witnesses, shall be put into his hands, or left at the usual place of his residence, by some suitable person appointed for the purpose. Citations shall also be issued to such witnesses as the accused shall name, who are members of the church, to appear on his behalf. Other persons can only be requested to attend. All citations shall be signed in the name of the court by the clerk, and by the moderator, if convenient.

3. *Charges Must be Specific.*—In drawing up charges, that justice may be done, it is important that times, places and circumstances should be particularly stated; and every libel or complaint, except those founded on common fame, must be thus specific.

4. *A Second Citation.*—If an accused person neglects or refuses to obey the citation, he shall be cited a second time, with notification that if he does not appear, or send a sufficient excuse, the court will proceed to trial, as if he was present, and also censure him for his contumacy.

5. *Time Allowed.*—While the time intervening between the first citation of an accused person and the meeting of the court at which he is to appear, must be at least ten days, the time allowed on the subsequent citation is at the discretion of the court; provided that it is sufficient for a convenient compliance.

6. *Citations Must be Served.*—The court shall ascertain that its citations have been duly served before proceeding to trial; and especially before it judges a person guilty of contumacy or inflicts any censure for it.

7. *Admissibility of the Charges.*—Before proceeding to trial, the first point to be determined is, the admissibility of the charges. In most cases this will have been done before the citation of the accused, yet as he has a right to be heard on that point, and may not have been present to plead to it, it ought not to be regarded as definitely settled until the accused is heard. If the charges are judged inadmissible, all further proceedings cease.

8. *Relevancy of the Libel.*—The first thing to be considered in the trial is the relevancy of the libel; that is, whether the charges, if proved, are censurable. On this, the accused, if present, has a right to be heard, but not in making a plea against the principles of his public profession. If, on careful consideration, the charges are found not relevant, all further proceedings must terminate; but if sustained as relevant, the accused is to be interrogated as to the matters of fact. If he admits them, the way is open for a decision; but if he denies them, the court shall proceed with the trial.

9. *Examination of Witnesses.*—The witnesses shall be examined in presence of the accused, or at least after he has received due citation to attend; and he shall be permitted to cross-examine them, and to ask any question tending to his own exculpation. After all the evidence has been taken in confirmation of the charge, the accused shall introduce whatever rebutting or extenuating evidence he has to offer.

10. *Parties Heard and Judgment Given.*—When the testimony is closed, the prosecutor shall be heard first, and then the accused, and the court shall decide whether either party shall have an opportunity of being further heard. The parties being removed, the court shall proceed to examine and weigh the testimony, and give judgment accordingly.

11. *Records and Copies.*—The judgment shall be regularly entered on the records of the court, and the parties shall be allowed copies of the whole proceedings, at their own expense, if they demand them; and in case of the removal of a cause to a higher court, the lower shall send up a complete authenticated copy of the whole record.

12. *Publication of Sentence.*—The sentence, if it is thought necessary to publish it, shall be published in the church or churches immediately concerned; but when the ends of public edification can be as well answered, private censure is to be preferred.

13. *Temporary Suspension.*—As cases may arise in which a considerable time may intervene before it is practicable to commence process, the Session may, in such cases, if thought necessary to edification, prevent the accused from approaching the Lord's table until the charges against him can be examined. And if an individual is evading process, the court shall enter that fact on its records, together with the nature of the offence charged, and shall suspend him from all church privileges until he appears before the court and answers to the charges against him.

14. *An Offence not Charged, but Proved.*—If the testimony, taken during the trial, proves a sin properly denominated by another name than that designated in the libel, while the specific charge of the libel must be found not proved, the accused may be found guilty of that which appears in proof; but sentence shall not be passed until further time shall be given him for defence, if he demands it and justice requires it.

15. *Counsel.*—No professional counsel shall be permitted to appear and plead in cases of process in any ecclesiastical court; but an accused person may, if he desires it, be represented by any member of the church, subject to the jurisdiction of the court before which he appears. The person so employed, if a member of the court, shall not be allowed, after pleading the cause of the accused, to sit in judgment on the case.

16. *Full Records.*—The record of the proceedings, in cases of judicial process, shall exhibit not only the charges, specifications and sentence of the court, but all the testimony and all the circumstances which had an influence on its judgment; and nothing which is not contained in the record shall be taken into consideration in reviewing the proceedings in a higher court.

CHAPTER V.

PROCESS AGAINST MINISTERS.

1. *Necessity of Faithfulness.*—As the honor and success of the gospel depend, in a great measure, on the character of its ministers, Presbyteries ought not, on account of their office, to screen them from justice or deal lightly with their offences, on the one hand, nor, on the other, ought scandalous charges to be received against them on frivolous grounds.

2. *Process Commenced.*—Process against a minister or probationer shall be entered before the Presbytery to which he belongs, and the rules of procedure laid down in Chap. IV. are to be strictly observed.

3. *When the Offence Occurred without the Bounds of His Own Presbytery.*—If the offence with which a minister or probationer is charged occurred without the bounds of his own Presbytery, that Presbytery shall send notice to the Presbytery within whose bounds it did occur, and request it either to cite the witnesses to appear at the place of trial, if within convenient distance, or, if not, to examine the witnesses and transmit an authentic record of their testimony; always giving due notice to the accused person of the time and place of such examination.

4. *When Not Likely to be Known to His Presbytery.*—When a minister is guilty of an offence committed at such a distance from the place of his residence that it is not likely to become known to the Presbytery to which he belongs, it shall be the duty of the Presbytery in whose bounds the offence was committed, after being satisfied that there is sufficient ground of accusation, to send notice to the former, which is to proceed against him, either by requesting the latter to take the testimony, as in preceding section, or by sending a commissioner for this purpose. In either case due notice must be given to the accused party.

5. *Accuser Responsible.*—Process shall not be commenced against a minister unless at the instance of a responsible party who undertakes to prove the charge; or unless common fame so proclaims the scandal that the Presbytery finds it necessary to investigate the charge. And when there is a prosecutor, he shall be previously informed that if he fails to show probable cause for the charge, he must himself be censured as a slanderer of the gospel ministry.

6. *Private Steps.*—Persons aggrieved by ministers are required to acquaint them with their grievances in private, whether the offences have been public or private, and, failing to obtain satisfaction, to apply to some other minister of the Presbytery for his advice in the case, before they can present a charge to the Presbytery.

7. *Charges Must be Written; Procedure.*—Every charge must be reduced to writing, before it is laid before the Presbytery. After receiving it, the Presbytery shall act according to the regulations, laid down, Chap. IV.

8. *Acts of Infirmity.*—If, on the trial, it appears that the matter complained of amounts to no more than acts of infirmity, which may

be so amended that little remains to hinder the usefulness of the accused, Presbytery shall take all prudent measures for the removal of the offence.

9. *Contumacy.*—A minister who has been accused of scandal, being twice duly cited, and refusing to attend the Presbytery, shall be immediately suspended.

10. *Rights of an Accused Minister.*—A minister under process for scandal shall retain, unimpaired, his right to deliberate and vote in other matters, unless the scandal charged is of such a nature that the Presbytery considers it necessary to suspend him from the exercise of his ministry till the charge is investigated.

CHAPTER VI.

EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

1. *Judgment Without Process.*—There are cases in which the guilt of an individual is manifest, the offence being committed in the presence of the court, or in which a trial is rendered unnecessary by the confession of the party; in such cases judgment may be given without process.

2. *Appeal in Such Cases.*—As there is no accuser in such cases, if the sentence of the court is appealed from, some person, a member of the court, or a member of the church, and subject to the jurisdiction of the same court with the appellant, shall be appointed to defend the sentence in the superior court, and such person shall be the appellee in the case.

CHAPTER VII.

EVIDENCE.

1. *What Received as Evidence.*—A charge of scandal may be established by the testimony of witnesses, by the records of a church court, or by written or printed papers.

2. *Testimony of Witnesses.*—In receiving the testimony of witnesses, great care and impartiality should be exercised by courts. All persons are not competent witnesses, and all who are competent are not credible.

3. *Competency.*—All persons, whether parties or otherwise, are competent witnesses, except such as do not believe in the existence of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, or have not sufficient intelligence to understand the obligation of an oath. Either party has a right to challenge a witness whom he believes to be incompetent, and the court shall examine and decide on his competency.

4. *Credibility.*—The credibility of witnesses, or the degree of credit given to their testimony, may be affected by relationship to either of the parties; by interest in the result; by want of proper age; by weakness of understanding; by defect in any of the senses; by infamy of character; by enmity to the accused; by being under censure for scandal or process for scandal impeaching their veracity; by general rashness, indiscretion, or malignity of character; and

by various other circumstances, to which courts should carefully attend, and for which they should make due allowance in their decision.

5. *Number of Witnesses.*—When the proof of a charge depends entirely upon the testimony of witnesses, two credible witnesses, at least, shall be necessary to establish the charge.* But if several different witnesses bear testimony to different similar acts belonging to the same general charge, or to circumstances necessarily connected with the truth of the charge, the crime shall be considered proved.

6. *A Member of the Court as a Witness.*—A member of the court may be called upon to bear testimony in a case which comes before it. He shall be qualified as other witnesses are, and, after giving his testimony, may resume his seat as a member of the court, if there is no reasonable objection.

7. *Separate Examination.*—Witnesses, afterwards to be examined, except members of the court, shall not be present during the examination of another witness, if either party demands their exclusion.

8. *Purged of Malice.*—Witnesses, before giving their testimony, are, if it is required, to be solemnly purged of malice against the accused; and no testimony shall be received but on oath, except by consent of parties.

9. *Manner of Examination.*—After a witness has been sworn, he shall be requested first to state what he knows of the matter charged; if he declines this method, or having given his statement, he shall be examined by the party introducing him; then cross-examined by the opposite party; after which, any member of the court, or either party, may put additional interrogatories. The court shall not permit frivolous questions, or questions not pertinent to the charge at issue; and every question must be put through the moderator.

10. *Questions are to be Written.*—Every question put to the witness shall, if required, be reduced to writing. When answered, it, together with the answer, shall be recorded, if either party requires it.

11. *Recorded, Approved and Attested.*—The testimony given by witnesses shall be faithfully recorded, read to them for correction and approval, and, then being subscribed by them, shall be attested by the moderator.

12. *Contumacy of a Witness.*—A member of the church summoned as a witness, and refusing to appear, or, having appeared, refusing to give testimony, may be censured for contumacy.

13. *Records of a Church Court.*—The records of a church court, or any part of them, whether original or transcribed, attested by the moderator and clerk, or either of them, shall be admitted as legal evidence in every other court. And, in like manner, testimony taken by one court at the request of another shall be received by the latter as though it had been taken by itself.

14. *Writings and Publications.*—Private writings and printed publications, the genuineness and authorship of which are clearly established, may be received in evidence.

---

* Deut. xix. 15.

15. *Testimony Taken by Commissioners.*—Where it may not be practicable to take a part or the whole of the testimony of the witnesses of either party in the presence of the court, commissioners shall be appointed to take the testimony in question; of which commission, and of the time and place of meeting, due notice shall be given to the opposite party, that he may attend. All testimony thus taken shall be regarded as if taken in the presence of the court.

16. *Kinds of Evidence.*—All evidence is either positive or circumstantial. Positive evidence is that by which the fact charged as a crime is directly proved. Circumstantial evidence is that which proves such circumstances as necessarily or usually attend, or which have a tendency to establish, such facts.

17. *Circumstantial.*—Circumstantial evidence, when of such a nature as to produce full conviction on the mind of the court, may be admitted as conclusive. But while in some cases such evidence may produce as strong conviction as can be obtained by positive, the greatest caution is always to be used in admitting such evidence, especially in the absence of the positive testimony of at least one credible witness.

18. *Positive.*—The positive testimony of a witness often affords nothing more than a probable presumption of a fact, as when there is manifest reason to doubt his veracity, or his right apprehension of the facts which he gives in testimony, or the accuracy of his memory, or when his testimony is contradicted by a witness equally positive and credible. The court is, therefore, not bound, by the admission of a witness, to give judgment according to his testimony.

19. *Second-hand.*—No second-hand or hearsay testimony is to be received, unless that which goes to prove the statements of persons who would have been credible witnesses, but are deceased, or are beyond the jurisdiction of the court; and the court shall determine what weight to allow it, if received.

20. *Private Knowledge.*—No private knowledge possessed by members of the court shall be allowed to influence the decision, as that must be based upon what is actually in evidence.

21. *New Testimony.*—If, in the prosecution of an appeal, new testimony is offered, which, in the judgment of the appellate court, has an important bearing on the case, it may refer the case to the inferior court for a new trial, or, with the consent of parties, take the testimony and issue the case. When, however, this testimony has had considerable influence in procuring a reversal of the decision of the court below, this fact shall be distinctly stated in the decision of the superior court.

CHAPTER VIII.

SENTENCES.

1. *Definition.*—A sentence is the determination and declaration, by a court, of the degree of censure to be inflicted on an individual found guilty of an offence.

2. *Sentence Proportionate to the Offence.*—Sentences should be

proportionate to the nature and aggravation of the offence,* and adapted to the ends of discipline.† And if the libel or complaint contains different charges, the sentence must be founded only on such as are duly proved.

3. *Execution of Sentence.*—The sentence should be reduced to writing, and read to the party on whom it has been passed. He shall then be required to signify his willingness to submit to it, which, if he does, opens the way for its execution But if he is not prepared to submit, it rests with the court to determine whether it will be for edification to grant him time for reflection till next meeting, or at once proceed to the execution of the sentence.

CHAPTER IX.

CHURCH CENSURES.

1. *Character and Solemnity of Censures.*—The censures of the church are purely spiritual. Having been appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ to promote the spiritual welfare of his church, and he having promised to bind in heaven whatsoever his servants bind on earth, censures administered according to his word cannot be despised or disregarded by men without guilt and danger; and great solemnity and gravity should be observed by those who administer them, as acting in the name of the great Head of the church.

2. *Degrees.*—There are five degrees of church censure, namely: admonition, rebuke, suspension, deposition, and excommunication.

ARTICLE I.

ADMONITION.

In What It Consists.—Admonition is the lowest degree of censure. It consists in tenderly reproving an offender for his sin and scandal, warning him of his guilt and danger, and exhorting him to be more watchful in the future. It is to be administered in private.

ARTICLE II.

REBUKE.

In What It Consists; Private; Public.—Rebuke is a higher degree of censure for a more aggravated offence, and consists in setting forth the character of the offence, with a sharp reproof for it.‡ Where the offence is private, or where the public interests of religion will not be injured thereby, the rebuke should be in private. But where the scandal is public, and the sin of an aggravated nature, the censure should be pronounced in public.§

ARTICLE III.

SUSPENSION.

1. *Definition.*—Suspension is a censure which may be inflicted on either a private member or an officer of the church. In respect to the former, it is a temporary exclusion from sealing ordinances; and to the latter, from the exercise of office, and, in ordinary cases, from sealing ordinances also.

---

* Tit. iii. 10, 11.
† 1 Cor. v. 5; Jude 22, 23.
‡ Tit. i. 13; ii. 15.
§ 1 Tim. v. 20.

2. *When Necessary.*—This censure becomes necessary when very gross offences have been committed, or when, notwithstanding admonition or rebuke, an offence is repeated or persisted in, or when probation is necessary to attest repentance and reformation.

3. *Duration.*—Suspension may be for a definite time, but generally it must be indefinite in duration, and its removal must depend upon evidence of repentance.

4. *Public.*—Suspension should be publicly announced, and it may be administered in the absence of the offender.

ARTICLE IV.

DEPOSITION.

1. *Definition.*—Deposition is a sentence depriving a church officer of his office.*

2. *Deliberation and Advice Necessary.*—This censure should not be inflicted but with the greatest deliberation, and for the most weighty reasons, or when lighter censures have failed. It should ordinarily be preceded by suspension. Before proceeding to it, in the case of a minister, the Presbytery should seek the advice of Synod; in the case of a ruling elder, the Session should seek the advice of Presbytery. The sentence of deposition passed on a pastor shall be publicly read to his congregation, which at the same time shall be declared vacant.

ARTICLE V.

EXCOMMUNICATION.

1. *Definition.*—Excommunication is the judicial excision of an offender from the visible church, declaring him to be unworthy of a place in the visible church, and to have no more fellowship with it than "a heathen man and publican."†

2. *When Inflicted.*—This fearful sentence should not be passed except for such errors or violations of the law of God as are grossly inconsistent with the Christian profession, or for obstinate persistence in grave offences; and not even then, until all scriptural means have been used, and have failed to reclaim the offender.‡

3. *Deliberation and Consultation.*—Much and solemn deliberation should be exercised before the court proceeds to this censure. The Session, if shut up to this step, should refer the matter to the Presbytery, which may pass the sentence, if satisfied of its necessity, and give directions for its execution. A Presbytery, also, before excommunicating a minister, may consult the Synod.

4. *Due Notice and Warning.*—In every case, before this step is taken, due notice must be given to the offender, and he must be warned of the sentence which awaits him, unless prevented by speedy repentance. After he has been duly notified to attend, the sentence may be passed by the court, whether he is present or absent.

5. *Manner.*—A warrant having been issued by the Presbytery for the public announcement of the sentence, the officiating minister, after reading the warrant, shall recount the steps which have been taken in the case, and explain the necessity of the sentence, and,

---

* Ezek. xliv. 13; 1 Kings ii. 27.
† Matt. xviii. 17; 1 Cor. v. 5.
‡ 1 Tim. i. 20; Matt. xviii. 15–17.

having prayed for the Lord's blessing on his own ordinance, he shall solemnly pronounce it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. *Effects.*—After the announcement of the sentence, the members of the church should be warned that the person cast out is no longer to be viewed as a brother, and that they are to have no unnecessary intercourse with him.* Nevertheless, excommunication does not destroy the bonds of natural and civil relations, nor free from any of their obligations.†

CHAPTER X.

THE RESTORATION OF OFFENDERS.

1. *Power to Restore.*—The Lord Jesus Christ has given to the officers of his house the power to loose as well as to bind, and has promised that whatsoever they loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.‡

2. *Conditions.*—No degree of guilt precludes restoration to church privileges, on satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation.

3. *To be Carefully Considered.*—It is not, however, every profession of sorrow for sin, or every promise of amendment, or even a partial reformation, that should be judged a satisfactory reason for restoration. But where a spirit of humility and meekness is manifested, accompanied with becoming watchfulness in life and conversation, especially in respect to the particular sin for which the censure has been inflicted, the court may feel warranted in restoring the offender.

4. *Public or Private.*—The act of restoration shall be public, if the censure was public, otherwise private, and by the same court which inflicted the censure, unless otherwise directed by a superior court.

5. *Manner of Application.*—An offender, desirous of restoration, shall make application to the court by which he was censured, or to the next superior court, expressing his desire to be restored to the fellowship of the church, acknowledging his sin, and professing his sorrow for it, and his resolution, through grace, to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. This, however, shall not preclude the necessity of his giving satisfaction, public or private, as the court may require.

6. *Restoration of Officers.*—Church officers deposed may be restored to church privileges, on evidence of repentance; but they ought not, especially ministers, to be restored to the exercise of their office, until it is obvious that the religious community is prepared to receive them in their official character.

CHAPTER XI.

DISSENT AND PROTESTS.

1. *Definition of Dissent; Who May Dissent; Reasons for Dissent.*—A dissent is a formal declaration of disagreement with a de-

---

* 1 Cor. v. 11-13. † 1 Cor. v. 10, and vii. 10-16. ‡ Matt. xvi. 19.

cision of the court, testifying against it as contrary to the word of God and the standards of the church. None but a member of the court, present and voting, may dissent from its proceedings. A dissent must be given immediately after the judgment dissented from is pronounced, and it shall be entered on the record. If reasons for dissent are given these may be placed either on record or on file for preservation, according to the pleasure of the court.

2. *Definition of Protest; Reasons.*—A protest is a more solemn and formal declaration of disagreement with a decision of a court, and it must be accompanied with a statement of the reasons on which it is founded, to be transmitted within ten days to the clerk of the court.

3. *Who has a Right to Protest; When Made; When Admitted.*—The right of protest belongs not only to the members of the court, but also to either party in a case which is the subject of investigation and decision. A protest must be declared immediately after the judgment protested against is pronounced; but no protest can be admitted unless it is entered with a view to appeal or complain to a higher court.

4. *Right to Record.*—If a protest or dissent is couched in respectful language, and contains no offensive reflections or insinuations against the majority of the court, those who offer it have a right to have it recorded in the minutes.

5. *Reasons and Answers; Replies Restricted.*—The court should appoint a committee to prepare answers to reasons of protest, which, being adopted, ought to be inserted in the records. A reply, on the part of protesters to the answers to their reasons of protest, shall not be admitted. But, if they regard the answers as imputing to them opinions or conduct which they disavow, they may ask leave to withdraw their reasons, and modify them so as to express their views more clearly. Such alteration may be followed by a corresponding modification of the answers, and here the matter must terminate.

6. *What it Implies.*—The admission of a protest by a court implies no more than a recognition of the right of the protester to exonerate his conscience, or to have a hearing in a superior court.

7. *In Court of Last Resort.*—A protest, against a decision of the court of last resort, may be entered, with the answers, on the records of the court; but such protest does not justify the protester in disobedience or non-submission.

CHAPTER XII.

THE VARIOUS WAYS BY WHICH A CASE MAY BE CARRIED FROM A LOWER TO A HIGHER COURT.

1. *Uses.*—In all governments administered by men, wrong may done. To remedy this, in an orderly way, is one great design of superior courts. When those who had no concern in the origin of proceedings are brought to review them, and confirm or annul them, there is as great security against permanent wrong as the present imperfect state admits.

2. *Modes.*—Every decision in any church court except the highest is subject to the review of a superior court; and it may be brought before it in one or other of the following ways,—viz., by review and control, reference, appeal, complaint or declinature.

3. *Rights of the Inferior Court.*—When a matter is transferred in any of these ways from an inferior to a superior court, except in cases of reference, the members of the inferior court shall have the right to sit and deliberate, but not to vote.

ARTICLE I.

REVIEW AND CONTROL.

1. *General Review.*—It is the duty of every church court above a Session, at least once a year, to review the records of the proceedings of the court next below. And if any lower court shall neglect to send up its records for this purpose, the higher court may issue an order to produce them, either immediately, or at some specified time.

2. *Matters of Review.*—In reviewing the records of an inferior court, it is proper to examine, first, whether the proceedings have been constitutional and regular; second, whether they have been equitable, faithful and prudent; third, whether they have been correctly recorded.

3. *Mode of Review.*—The review may be conducted by a committee, which shall report at the meeting at which it was appointed. If, according to the report of the committee, animadversion or censure appears necessary, the members of the inferior court present shall be heard in defence, and the judgment of the court reviewing shall be entered on their own minutes, and on the book reviewed.

4. *Irregular Proceedings.*—If in the review irregular proceedings are found, so injurious as to require correction, the inferior court may be required to review and correct its proceedings, and to report the correction as soon as practicable.

5. *Decision not Reversed.*—No judicial decision, however, shall be reversed by the court reviewing, unless it is regularly brought up by appeal or complaint.

6. *Review on Common Fame.*—If the superior court is well advised, by common fame, of neglects and irregularities by the inferior, of which the records give no notice, especially in cases where notorious errors or sins are suffered to pass without rebuke, and offenders are permitted to escape proper censure, it shall cite the inferior court to appear and answer, and, if culpable, inflict such censure and give such orders as may be necessary to remedy the evils existing.

7. *Courts Reviewing their own Decision.*—While the court of last resort may, at any time, review its own decisions, it is not expedient for an inferior court to do so, except when directed by a superior, or when fully satisfied that there are grounds for the reversal of a previous decision.

ARTICLE II.

REFERENCES.

1. *Definition.*—A reference is a judicial representation, made by an inferior to the next superior court, of a matter not yet decided; this representation shall always be in writing.

2. *Proper Subjects.*—Proper subjects of reference are, cases that are new, that are peculiarly delicate or difficult, the decision of which may establish a precedent of extensive influence, or on which the members of the court are much divided.

3. *Objects.*—References are either for advice, or for trial and decision of the case by the superior court.

4. *Effects.*—In the former, the effect of a reference is merely to suspend the decision of the court making it; in the latter, it is to relinquish the decision, and submit the whole case to the judgment of of the superior court.

5. *Duty of a Superior Court.*—Although a superior court ought generally to give advice, yet it is not bound to give a final judgment in a case referred, even when requested so to do; but it may remit the whole case with or without advice to the court referring.

6. *Notice and Evidence.*—Notice of reference must be given to parties who may be interested in a case, and the court making the reference should have all evidence duly prepared and in readiness, that the superior court may be able to hear and issue the case with as little delay as possible.

ARTICLE III.

APPEALS.

1. *Definition.*—An appeal is the removal of a case already decided, from an inferior to the next superior court.

2. *Grounds.*—Appeals may be made either from a definitive sentence as unjust or mistaken, or from any particular step of the proceedings, on account of irregularity, in refusing reasonable indulgence to a party on trial, declining to receive important testimony, hurrying to a decision before the testimony is all taken, or manifesting prejudice in the case.

3. *Appellants.*—In a judicial case, that is, where a person is on trial for heresy or immorality, the right of appeal belongs to the party against whom the decision is made. In all cases, when the purity of the church or the interests of truth and righteousness are injuriously affected by a decision, any member of the court may appeal. In judicial cases, those who have not submitted to a regular trial are not entitled to appeal.

4. *Notice and Reasons.*—Every appellant is bound to give notice of his appeal to the court before it rises, and to lay the reasons thereof, in writing, before it at the time, or within ten days thereafter. In the latter case, these reasons shall be lodged with the moderator or clerk. But where parties interested may, for good reasons, not have been present, or not have known of the decision, a reasonable time shall be allowed.

5. *Necessary Papers.*—The appellant shall lodge his appeal, and the reasons of it, with the clerk of the higher court, at the commencement of its meeting, and either party may appear in person or in writing. And it shall be the duty of the court whose judgment is appealed from, to send authentic copies of the records and testimony relating to the matter.

6. *Order.*—In taking up an appeal, after ascertaining that it has been regularly conducted, the first step shall be to read the records

in the case; second, to hear the parties, the appellant first, and then the appellee; third, to hear the members of the court, and then to take the final vote.

7. *Different Issues.*—The decision may be to confirm or reverse, either in whole or in part, the decision of the inferior court, or to remit the case, for the purpose of amending the record, should it appear to be incorrect, or defective, or for a new trial.

8. *Action of the Appellate Court.*—If an appeal is sustained, the judgment of the inferior court is necessarily reversed, but if not sustained, the judgment is affirmed. If an appeal is sustained, the superior court may close the case, if further proceedings are deemed unnecessary, or try it, or direct the court below how to proceed. But in case of an appeal from a decision refusing an appeal, if the appeal is sustained, the case must be tried by the higher court.

9. *Troublesome Appellants.*—If an appellant manifests a litigious or other unchristian spirit in the prosecution of his appeal, he shall be censured according to the degree of his offence.

10. *Appeal Abandoned.*—If an appellant, after entering his appeal before a superior court, fails to prosecute it, it shall be considered as abandoned, unless he can make it appear that he was providentially prevented.

11. *Operation of Appeal.*—The operation of an appeal is to suspend all further proceedings on the ground of the sentence appealed from. But if a sentence of suspension or excommunication from church privileges, or of deposition from office, is appealed from, it shall be in force until the appeal shall be issued.

12. *An Appeal May be Refused.*—In cases where the admission of an appeal would necessarily and injuriously delay process, it is competent for the inferior court to refuse to admit an appeal, and having done so, to proceed with the trial, but in such case the party refused an appeal may complain to the superior court.

ARTICLE IV.

COMPLAINTS.

1. *Definition.*—A complaint is a representation made to a superior by any member or members of a minority of an inferior court, or by any other person or persons, being members of the church, respecting a decision of the inferior court as being irregular and unjust.

2. *When Complaints are Proper.*—Complaints are proper in all cases of grievance, whether judicial or not, where the party aggrieved declines to appeal, or where the complainants do not possess the right of appeal, or where the right of appeal is tyranically refused; and in all other cases where the complainant is persuaded that the purity of the church or the interests of truth and righteousness are injuriously affected by the decision of an inferior court. But in judicial cases, a party declining to appeal shall not be allowed to complain.

3. *Effects of a Complaint, when Well Founded.*—A complaint brings the whole proceedings of an inferior court under the review of its superior, and the original parties are thereby placed at the bar of the superior court.

4. *When a Complaint is Well Founded.*—If on examination it appears that a complaint is well founded, such finding may not only

reverse the decision of the court below, either in whole or in part, but also subject the inferior court to such censure as the case may seem to require.

5. *Rules of Procedure.*—The same rules of procedure must be observed in complaints as in appeals. [See Article III. of this Chapter.]

ARTICLE V.

DECLINATURE.

1. *Definition.*—A declinature is the refusal of a person, under process, to submit to trial by a particular court.

2. *When Warrantable.*—A declinature is warrantable, if accompanied with an appeal, when a court prejudges the case, when it allows members who are nearly related to the opposing party, or who have themselves been active as parties, or at variance with either of the parties, to sit and vote in the case after objection made.

3. *When not Warrantable.*—But if a person, in order to evade a process, or without assigning any just reason, or without an appeal to the next higher court, declines the authority of his proper court, such declinature is unwarrantable, and does not stay the process, but the person declining may be censured for contumacy.

4. *Effects.*—A lawful declinature does not quash a process. It only removes it to a higher court, where the same regulations shall be observed in the trial as in cases of appeal.

CHAPTER XIII.

JURISDICTION.

1. *Of a Member.*—A member dismissed from one congregation to another shall be considered under the jurisdiction of the former until actually received by the latter.

2. *Of a Minister.*—A minister, in like manner, shall be considered as under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery by which he was dismissed, until he actually becomes a member of another.

3. *Sins Committed before but Known after Reception.*—Any offence, committed by either a minister or member, between the time of his dismissal by one court and his reception by another, but which did not come to light until after he had been received, shall be under the cognizance of the latter body.

CHAPTER XIV.

LIMITATION OF TIME.

1. *In Trial for Scandal.*—Process, in case of scandal, shall commence within one year after the crime has been committed; and scandals that have been known for that time, shall not be made the subjects of process, unless they have recently become flagrant. But where a scandal was committed unknown to the church, though more than a year has passed before its discovery, process may commence as if the crime had recently been committed.

2. *But one Trial for the same Offence.*—Persons who have been tried for an offence, and acquitted, or found guilty and censured and restored, cannot be subjected to another trial for the same offence.

Forms.

I. Testimonial of Members Leaving a Congregation.

That A. B. is a member in full communion, in the United Presbyterian congregation of ———, in the county of ———, State of ———, and is hereby dismissed at —— own request, is attested this —— day of ——, 18—.

By order of Session.

J. N., *Moderator.*
A. D., *Clerk.*

II. Testimonial for Members who have been some time Absent.

That A. B. was a member in full communion in the United Presbyterian congregation of ———, in the county of ———, State of ———, up to the —— day of ———, when —— removed from the bounds thereof, and may, as far as is known to this Session, be received into the fellowship of any church of Christ, is attested this —— day of ——, 18—.

By order of Session.

J. N., *Moderator.*
A. D., *Clerk.*

III. Form of Application for the Moderation of a Call.

The United Presbyterian Church at ———, in the county of ———, and State of ———, under the inspection of the Presbytery of ——, being at present vacant, anxious to obtain the stated administration of the word and ordinances among them, and finding themselves able and willing to support it, assembled at ——, on the —— day of ——, 18—, and agreed to petition, and do hereby most heartily petition the Presbytery for a moderation of a call, and appoint A. N. and C. D. their commissioners, to represent them in this behalf to the Presbytery, at their next meeting.

By order of the Congregation.

E. F., *Moderator.*

Done at ———, the —— day of ———, A. D. 18—.

IV. Form of a Call for a Minister.

We, the elders and other members of the United Presbyterian congregation of ———, in the county of ——, and State of ——, taking into our serious consideration the great loss we suffer through the want of a fixed gospel ministry among us, and being fully satisfied, from opportunities of enjoying your public ministrations, that the Great Head of the church has bestowed upon you, Mr. A. N., such ministerial gifts and endowments as, through the divine blessing, may be profitable for our edification; we, therefore, hereby call and beseech you to come to us and help us, by taking the charge and oversight of this congregation, to labor in it and watch over it, as our fixed pastor; and on your acceptance of this our call, we promise you all due support, respect, encouragement and obedience in the Lord.

In testimony whereof, we have subscribed this our call, this —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord 18—, before these witnesses.

Attest:

C. D.
E. F.

V. Attestation of a Call.

That, agreeably to presbyterial appointment, I preached on the —— day of ———, in the congregation of ———, under the inspection of the Presbytery of ———, in the State of ———, and presided in the moderation of a call for a pastor to said congregation, which was made out for Mr. A. N. under the inspection of the Presbytery of ——, is certified at ——, this —— day of ——, A. D. 18—, by

C. D.

VI. Form of an Act of Licensure.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of ———, in the State of ———, having taken Mr. A. N., student of divinity, on trials for license, and he having acquitted himself to their satisfaction in all the parts of his trials, did at their meeting on the —— day of ———, at ———, in the county of ——, and State of ———, and hereby do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, allow and appoint him, the said A. N., to preach the gospel of peace within their bounds, and in all other places where in Providence he may be called.

By order of Presbytery.

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Given at ———, county of ———, and State of ——, this —— day of ——— A. D. 18—.

VII. Form of an Edict.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of ———, in the State of ———, having received a regular call from the congregation at ———, in the ——— of ———, and State of ———, to Mr. A. N., preacher of the gospel, to be their minister, and the said Mr. A. N. having undergone trials for ordination, and the Presbytery judging him qualified for the ministry of the gospel, and fit to be pastor of this congregation, the call whereof has been by him accepted, have resolved to proceed to his ordination on the —— day of ———, unless somewhat occur which may lawfully impede it; and, therefore, do hereby give notice to all concerned, that if they, or any of them, have ought to object, why the said Mr. A. N. should not be admitted pastor of this congregation, they may repair to the Presbytery, which is to meet at ———, on the —— day of ———, with certification, that if no objection be then made, the Presbytery will proceed without further delay.

By order of the Presbytery.

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

VIII. Certificate of Ordination.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of ———, in the State of ———, having had a call from the congregation of ———, county of ———, and State of ———, to Mr. A. N., preacher of the gospel, presented to them, which they sustained, and which he accepted, took him on trials for ordination, and having judged him duly qualified for the office of the gospel ministry, and in particular for the pastoral charge of said congregation, and being presbyterially met at their ordinary place of public worship, on the —— day of ———, did then and there solemnly set apart said Mr. A. N., in the face of the whole congregation there present, to the office of the holy ministry in said congregation, and did afterward receive him into ministerial fellowship.*

By order of Presbytery,

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Given at ———, on the —— day of ———, A. D. 18—.

---

* When a candidate is ordained to the ministry at large, or when the Presbytery cannot meet in the congregation to be settled, the form of the testimonials must be varied accordingly.

IX. Form of Transfer, in Case of a Call from One Presbytery to Another.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of ———, in the State of ———, having received from the Presbytery of ———, in the State of ——, a call for Mr. A. N. to the pastoral charge of the congregation at ———, under the inspection of the Presbytery aforesaid, and said call being by them approved, and by him accepted, they did, and hereby do, transfer and remit him to the Presbytery of ———, for ordination (or *admission*) to the pastoral charge of said congregation.

By order of Presbytery.

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Done at ———, on the —— day of ———, 18—.

X. Form of Commission to the General Assembly.

It is hereby certified that the United Presbyterian Presbytery of ———, in the State of———, at their meeting on the —— day of ———, did and hereby do, appoint Mr. A. N., minister at ———, Mr. C. D., minister at ———, with Mr. E. F. and Mr. G. H., ruling elders, their commissioners to the next General Assembly of this church, to meet at ——, on the —— day of ———, next ensuing, or when and where it shall happen to meet, enjoining them to repair thither, and attend at all the sittings thereof, and there to consult, vote and determine in all matters that come before them, according to the word of God and the standards of this church, as they will be answerable, and that they report diligence herein at their return.

By order of Presbytery.

J. K., *Moderator.*
L. M., *Clerk.*

Done at ———, this —— day of ———, 18—.

XI. Form of a Libel.

Libel preferred against A. N., by order of ———.

Whereas (here insert the crime), is a heinous sin and scandal, contrary to the word of God (insert passages), and to the profession of this church (quote from standards), and injurious to the religion of Christ, and ought to be censured;

Yet true it is that you, A. N., &c., are guilty in the matter of scandal above specified. In so far as you, said A. N., did at ———, on the —— day of ——, or thereabouts (here insert facts), being found relevant and proved against you, you ought to be proceeded against by the censures of the Lord's house, according to the nature of your said offence and scandal.

Signed,

E. F., *Moderator.*
G. H., *Clerk.*

Done in ———, at———, this day of ———, 18—.

XII. Form of Citation.

By order of the United Presbyterian Session (or Presbytery) of ———, you, Mr. A. N., member of, elder or deacon in, or minister at ———, are summoned to appear before said ——, and answer to the libel herewith presented, at ——, on the —— day of ———, and at —— o'clock in the ———.

Signed,

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Done at ———, this —— day of ———, A. D. 18—.

XIII. Form of Citation for a Witness.

Mr. A. N.:—

You are hereby summoned by the Session (Presbytery, &c.) of —— to appear at ———, on the —— day of ———, to give testimony in a cause pending between C. D. and E. F. Lay aside all excuses, and fail not to attend.

A. N., *Moderator.*
C. D., *Clerk.*

This —— day of ———, and year of our Lord ——.

XIV. Form of an Oath to be Administered to a Witness.

"You swear by the living God, the searcher of all hearts, that you will declare the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. according to the best of your knowledge, in the cause now pending, as you shall answer to God at the great day."

XV. Form of an Act of Public Suspension.

Whereas, A. N.,* ———, hath been convicted before the† ——— of ——— [And whereas, the ——— have, from time to time, and in the spirit of meekness, endeavored, without effect, to reclaim their offending brother‡]; and whereas, his continuing in his sin, and refusing to listen to the admonitions of his brethren, render it necessary for the honor of Christ Jesus, for the purity of his religion, for a warning to others, and for his own benefit, to inflict on him a public censure of the Lord's house, the ——— did, and hereby do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as a court constituted in his name, suspend and exclude the said A. N. from the privileges of the church, till he return from the error of his way, and give solid proofs of unfeigned repentance.

XVI. Form of an Act of Suspension or Deposition from Office.

Whereas, A. N., ———, hath been convicted before the ——— of ———; and whereas, it is especially needful, that office-bearers in the house of God be sound in the faith, of good report, and by their blameless conversation, ensamples to the flock; and whereas, the continuance of said A. N. in the station which he presently holds, is for these reasons incompatible with the welfare of the church, the ——— aforesaid did, and hereby do, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the powers committed by him unto them as a court constituted in his name, ⁋——— the said A. N. from the office of the ‖———, prohibiting him from all and any exercise of the said office of the ——— in the church of Christ, till he be lawfully restored thereto.

Signed, C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Done in ———, at ———, this —— day of ———.

The above form is to be observed in those cases where a suspension or deposition is necessary, whatever contrition be manifested; but in the event of contumacy, or persisting in the scandal, the following clauses are to be added immediately before the signature of the Moderator and Clerk.

And whereas, the said A. B. hath manifested, and doth still manifest, contumacious resistance to that authority to which he oweth subjection in the Lord, and refuseth to make just and scriptural satisfaction for his offence, the ——— further did, and hereby do, in the same venerable name, suspend and exclude the said A. B. from the privileges of the Christian Church, with certification that if he shall not return unto his duty, acknowledging the —— found proved against him, with his contumacious behavior, and confessing his humiliation and penitence therefor, to the glory of God, and apply to the ——— against ¶——— for giving satisfaction with respect to the whole of this, his sinful course and conduct, the ——— will then consider on proceeding against him by some higher censure, as they shall see cause.

XVII. Form of a Sentence of Excommunication.

Whereas, **———heinous sin and scandal ——— proved, at the meeting of the United Presbyterian —— of ——, on the —— day of ——, against Mr. A

* Member, or elder, or deacon, of this congregation; or minister, elder, deacon, or member of the congregation at ———.

† Session of this church, or Session of the church at ———, or Presbytery at ———.

‡ The clause included in [———] to be omitted in cases where a public suspension may be necessary without the previous steps.

⁋ Suspend or depose, as the case may require.

‖ Holy ministry, or eldership, or deaconship, according to his station.

¶ Here insert the time, &c., of satisfaction.

** Matter of ———, or several matters of ———, as the case may be.

B.; and whereas, the Lord Jesus hath especially given it in charge to the judicatories of his house not to suffer sin upon a brother, but, in the fear of God, to endeavor to reclaim him by authoritatively admonishing, rebuking, and otherwise censuring him, all which hath accordingly been done; and whereas, he remaineth obstinate and contumacious, without any evidence or sign of repentance or sorrow for his said scandal and offence, notwithstanding all the reclaiming means which have hitherto been used with him; therefore, the ——— did, and hereby do, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the church, and according to the powers committed by him to them, as a court constituted in his name, actually excommunicate the said A. B., casting him out of the communion of the church of Christ, declaring him to be of those whom the Lord Christ commandeth to be holden by all and every one of the faithful, as heathen men and publicans, and delivering him unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

C. D., *Moderator.*
E. F., *Clerk.*

Done in ———, this —— day of ———.

XVIII. Form of an Act of Absolution and Restoration, as it is to be Intimated to One who has been Excommunicated.

Whereas, thou, A. B., hast, for thy sin, been shut out from the communion of the faithful, and hast now manifested thy repentance, wherein the church resteth satisfied, the ———, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the powers committed by him to them, as a court constituted in his name, did, and hereby do, absolve thee from the censure of excommunication formerly pronounced against thee, and do restore thee to the communion of the church, and the free use of all the ordinances of Christ, that thou mayest partake of all his benefits to thy eternal salvation.

XIX. Form of a Presbyterial Warrant for Intimating the Censure of Excommunication.

The ——— of ——— having found just cause of excommunication against A. B. on account of ——— and of aggravated contumacy and impenitence therein, and having, at their meeting at ——— on the —— day of ———, excommunicated him accordingly, did, and hereby do, appoint you, Mr. C. D., minister of the gospel at ———, to intimate said censure to the congregation at ———, on —— day, the —— day of ———, in the ordinary place of public worship, and immediately after the conclusion of the ——— service, and in the following words: (Here insert the act of excommunication.)

XX. Form of a Presbyterial Warrant for Intimating the Absolution and Restoration of a Penitent.

The ——— of ——— having found just and sufficient cause of absolving A. B. from the censure of excommunication under which he presently lies, and of restoring him to the privileges of the Lord's house, and having at their meeting at ———, on the —— day of ———, absolved and restored ——— accordingly, did, and hereby do, appoint and direct you, Mr. C., minister of the gospel at ———, to intimate ——— absolution and restoration to the congregation at ——— on the —— day of ———, in the ordinary place of public worship, and immediately after the conclusion of the ——— service, and in the following words: (Here insert the act of absolution.)

II. DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

1. *Definition of Worship.*—Worship consists in the performance of those external acts and the observance of those rites and ceremonies, in which men engage with the professed and sole view of honoring God and enjoying his favor.

2. *Object of Worship.*—Worship is due to God alone,* and is to be offered only in the way of his appointment.†

3. *Worshipers.*—All rational creatures should worship God, their Creator, Preserver, and bountiful Benefactor.‡

4. *Kinds of Worship.*—From the difference in the number and circumstances of worshipers, and not from any difference in the worship itself, worship may be divided as follows: Public, Social, Family, Secret, and Extraordinary.

5. *Design of a Directory for Worship.*—To set forth the seasons and ordinances of worship as they are appointed in the Holy Scriptures,§ and as they should be observed by the church, is the design of a *Directory for Worship.*

CHAPTER II.

THE SEASONS FOR WORSHIP.

1. *The Sabbath.*—Under the gospel dispensation, the first day of the week, or the Christian Sabbath, is the only day which God has appointed to be kept holy.‖

2. *Sanctification of the Sabbath.*—The Sabbath should be observed as a day of holy rest from worldly employments and pleasures, and should be spent in the worship of God. All should attend public worship and earnestly engage in all its parts. So much of the day as is not spent in public worship should be spent in private and family devotions, in religious reading and conversation, and, when necessary, in the proper works of necessity and mercy.¶

---

* Matt. iv. 10.
† Matt. xxviii. 20.
‡ Rev. v. 13.
§ Deut. xii. 32.
‖ Acts xx. 7; Ex. xx. 8.
¶ Ex. xx. 10; Matt. xii. 11, 12.

3. *Special Days of Worship.*—In addition to the Sabbath, special days of worship may be appointed by the church or state, when the times make such an appointment proper or necessary.*

4. *Morning and Evening.*—It is especially appropriate that the morning and the evening be observed as the seasons for private and family worship.†

5. *All Times.*—There should be a devotional frame of mind at all times, so that worship may be paid whenever circumstances demand it.‡

CHAPTER III.

THE ORDINANCES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

1. *Ordinances of Public Worship.*—The ordinances of God's word are: Prayer and Thanksgiving in the name of Christ;§ the Reading, Preaching, and Hearing of the word;‖ the Administering and Receiving of the Sacraments;¶ Church Government and Discipline;** the Ministry and Maintenance thereof;†† Religious Fasting;‡‡ Swearing by the name of God, and Vowing unto him§§ [Larger Catechism, Quest. 108]. The Sacramental Ordinances are, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

2. *Order of Exercises.*—Though the order of the exercises of public worship must be left in part to the discretion of the officiating minister, yet the following order may be observed: 1. Invocation; 2. Singing; 3. Reading the Scriptures; 4. Prayer; 5. Singing; 6. Sermon; 7. Prayer; 8. Singing; 9. Benediction. On days when the Sacraments are to be administered, they may be administered immediately after the sermon.

ARTICLE I.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1. *At Every Service.*—A portion of the Scriptures should be read during every service.‖‖ Each person in the congregation should, attentively and devoutly, follow the minister while reading.

2. *Amount to be Read.*—How much should be read, and what selection should be made, must be left to the discretion of the minister.

ARTICLE II.

THE SINGING OF PRAISE.

1. *Matter of Praise.*—It is the will of God that the sacred songs, contained in the Book of Psalms, should be sung in his worship to the end of the world,¶¶ to the exclusion of the devotional compositions of uninspired men. The poetical version of the Psalms, now in use, shall be employed until another shall be prepared and authorized by the church.

2. *Manner of Praise.*—In praising God, we should sing with the spirit and with the understanding also, making melody in our hearts

---

* Esth. iv. 16.
† Ps. xcii. 2.
‡ 1 Thess. v. 17.
§ Phil. iv. 6; Eph. v. 20.
‖ John v. 39; Acts xv. 21.
¶ Acts xxviii. 19.
** 1 Cor. xii. 28; Rom. xii. 8.
†† 1 Tim. v. 17, 18.
‡‡ Joel ii. 12; 1 Cor. vii. 5.
§§ Deut. vi. 13; Ps. lxxvi. 11.
‖‖ Acts xv. 21.
¶¶ Eph. v. 19.

to the Lord.* But that God may be praised in a becoming manner with our voices, as well as with our hearts, congregations should seek a more thorough knowledge of music.

3. *All Should Sing.*—Some suitable person or persons may be employed to lead in the singing, but all the congregation should join in this exercise to the best of their ability.

4. *Session Must Regulate the Singing.*—It belongs to Sessions to appoint the leaders in their congregations, to regulate the singing of praise, and to see that this important part of public worship is rendered for edification, and in the best possible manner.

5. *Instrumental Music Forbidden.*—As the use of musical instruments in the worship of the New Testament Church has no sanction in the Bible, they shall not be introduced, in any form, in any of our congregations.

ARTICLE III.

THE OFFERING OF PRAYER.

1. *Invocation.*—The introductory prayer should be brief, containing petitions for God's presence and guidance, and his blessing on the work of the day.

2. *Prayer Before Sermon.*—The prayer before sermon should be comprehensive and not tedious, full of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication and intercession for all classes and conditions of men.† It is recommended that special prayer should be made for the President of the United States, and for all in authority.‡

3. *Prayer After Sermon.*—The prayer after sermon should relate chiefly to the subject discussed, beseeching God to impress his truth upon the hearts of the hearers, and to make it the savor of life unto life.

4. *Preparation for Prayer.*—As public prayer is very closely connected with the edification and comfort of God's people, ministers should, by meditation and secret prayer, prepare to engage in it in a comprehensive and profitable manner.§

ARTICLE IV.

THE PREACHING OF THE WORD.

1. *Importance of Preaching.*—As the preaching of the Word is of chief importance as a means of salvation, it should receive special attention, and every minister should prepare for this work with much study, meditation and prayer.‖

2. *Sermons.*—Every sermon should be founded on a portion of Scripture, should explain the doctrine taught in it, and should make a close application to the heart and conscience of the hearer, that his life may be conformed to the will of God.

3. *Expository Preaching.*—The expository mode of preaching, or the explaining of the Scriptures continuously in their connection, is believed to be eminently conducive to edification, as it affords an opportunity to present the truths of the Bible in their variety, and their application to the different relations of life.¶

---

* 1 Cor. xiv. 15.
† 1 Tim. ii. 1.
‡ 1 Tim. ii. 2.
§ Eccl. ii. 2.
‖ 2 Tim. ii. 15.
¶ Acts xvii. 2.

4. *Manner of Preaching.*—The minister should not read his discourse; he should present the truth, not in the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in the simplicity of the gospel; and his great aim should be that of Paul: "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."*

ARTICLE V.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM.

1. *Administrator and Subjects of Baptism.*—Baptism should not be administered by any person but a minister of the gospel.† It is to be administered to those who make a credible profession of faith in Christ,‡ and to the infants of those who are members of the visible church.§

2. *Place of Administration.*—It should ordinarily be administered in the church in connection with public worship. When administered in any other place, previous notice should be given to the congregation, and religious services should be conducted in connection with the ordinance.

3. *Mode of Baptism.*—Immersion in water is not necessary to the validity of baptism. Baptism is rightfully administered, when water is applied to the person by pouring or sprinkling.‖

4. *Baptism of Adults.*—Adults are to be baptized on the public profession of their faith in Christ and obedience to him. The formula of questions for the admission of church members may be used in the baptism of adults, viz.:

I. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God, the infallible and only rule of faith and practice?

II. Do you profess your adherence to the doctrines received by this church, as set forth in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, and Declarations of the Testimony; and do you approve of the Form of Government and Directory for Worship adopted by this church, so far as you have been enabled to understand them, as agreeable to and founded on the word of God?

III. Do you profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; your acceptance of him as your Saviour, and your resolution, through grace, to continue in the faith; to be subject to the order and discipline of God's house; to be diligent in your attendance upon divine ordinances, both teaching and sealing, according to your profession; on secret prayer; on family worship, morning and evening, unless providentially hindered; and in the performance of all other duties incumbent on you, whatever station you may occupy in life; that you will study to promote the peace, purity and prosperity of this congregation, while you remain a member thereof; and that you will make conscience of promoting the cause of Christ and his truth, as by other means, so especially by a holy and godly conversation?

IV. Do you make this profession as in the presence of God, in reliance on his grace, and as you desire to give in your account with joy at the great day?

---

* 2 Cor. iv. 5. † Matt. xxviii. 19. ‡ Mark xvi. 16. § 1 Cor. vii 14. ‖ Mark vii. 4.

5. *Baptism of Children.*—When the child to be baptized has been presented by its parents, or by one of its parents, if only one is a member of the church, let the minister briefly state the nature, use and ends of this ordinance; showing that it was instituted by Christ; that it is a seal of the righteousness of faith; that the water represents and signifies both the blood of Christ, which cleanseth from all sin, and the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit; that the seed of the faithful have a right to this ordinance; that the children of believing parents are federally holy; that there must be faith in order to baptism; and that, as infants cannot believe for themselves, their parents must exercise faith for them. Then let the minister propose the following questions to the parents who have presented their children for baptism:

. (*Formula of Questions.*)—I. Do you now take God as your God in covenant, and as the God of your seed?

II. Do you renew the profession you made when you were admitted to the church?

III. Do you solemnly promise, if God shall spare your life and that of your children, to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to instruct them in regard to their lost condition by nature, and to lead them to the Saviour; to pray with them and for them; to worship God regularly in your family; to set before them an example of piety; and to use all the appointed means for their salvation?

6. *Application of Water.*—When these questions have been answered in the affirmative, and when the minister has prayed for the blessing of God to accompany the administration of the ordinance, he shall sprinkle the face of the child with water, calling it by name, and saying: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." After this is done, let him again engage in prayer, asking God for such blessings as are needful for parents and their children.

ARTICLE VI.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

1. *Place, Administrator, etc., of the Supper.*—The Lord's Supper is to be administered in the church by a minister of the gospel, and none but members of the church should be admitted to this ordinance.* It is to be celebrated often, but how often, the Session of each congregation must determine.

2. *Previous Notice and Preparatory Exercises.*—Public notice should be given to the congregation at least two Sabbaths before the administration of the ordinance, and preparatory services should be conducted, in which the people should be instructed as to the nature of the ordinance and the qualifications of communicants.

3. *Introductory Services.*—When the sermon on the communion Sabbath is ended, the minister should show that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Christ, by reading the words of institution; that it is to be observed in remembrance of him; that it is profitable to strengthen his people against sin, to support under troubles, to en-

* Matt. xxvi. 26.

courage in duty, to increase faith and beget peace of conscience and comfortable hopes of eternal life. He should draw the Scripture distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not, and solemnly warn the ignorant, the heretical, and the immoral, not to approach the table of the Lord. On the other hand, he should affectionately invite those who are sensible of their lost and helpless condition, and who are depending on the atonement and intercession of Christ for pardon and acceptance with God, to come to the supper, that by faith they may feed upon him whose flesh is meat indeed, and whose blood is drink indeed.*

4. *Coming to the Table; Giving Thanks.*—After these introductory services, let the communicants come to the table, on which the elements are spread, while a portion of a Psalm is sung. Then let the minister, in imitation of the Saviour's example, give thanks to God and implore his blessing on the ordinance.†

5. *Distributing the Bread.*—After prayer, let the minister take the bread, break it, and give it to communicants, saying: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and having given thanks, brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.'"‡

6. *Distributing the Wine.*—Then he shall take the cup, and give it to communicants, saying: "After the same manner, our Lord took the cup and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'This cup is the New Testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.'"§

7. *Address to Communicants.*—When communicants are seated at the table, the minister should remind them of the grace of God and the love of Christ as exhibited in this sacrament, and of their obligation to live a holy and consistent life. While the elements are passing, communicants may be left to their own reflections.

8. *Concluding Services.*—The minister, at a convenient time, is to take his seat at the table and communicate with the members of the congregation. After all have been at the table, the service should be concluded with thanksgiving and praise.‖

ARTICLE VII.

THE PRONOUNCING OF THE BENEDICTION.

1. *Dismissing the Congregation.*—At the close of public worship, the minister should dismiss the congregation with a solemn benediction. None but a minister of the gospel should perform this part of public worship, and the people should wait with reverence and attention till it is ended.¶

2. *Form of Benediction.*—In dismissing the congregation, the following form of benediction may be employed: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."**

---

* 1 Cor. xi. 27-29.
† 1 Cor. xi. 24.
‡ 1 Cor. xi. 23, 24.
§ 1 Cor. xi. 25.
‖ Matt. xxvi. 30.
¶ Numb. vi. 23.
** 2 Cor. xiii. 14.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ORDINANCES OF SOCIAL WORSHIP.

1. *Prayer Meetings.*—When circumstances will admit, meetings for prayer should be held in every congregation, at least once during the week. It is the duty of all the members of the church to attend these meetings for social worship.*

2. *Leader.*—The pastor of the congregation, or, if he is not present, an elder, or private member of approved piety, should conduct the exercises of the prayer meeting.

3. *Order of Exercises.*—The exercises should consist of reading the Scriptures, the singing of Psalms, the offering of prayer, and remarks on some portion of Scripture or suitable exhortations, in such order as shall conduce to edification. When a minister is present, the services should be concluded with the benediction.

4. *Sessions' Prayer Meetings.*—Sessions should frequently meet for conference and prayer, when they should consider the spiritual condition of their congregations, and implore divine guidance in all that pertains to their office.

5. *Social Worship in Place of Preaching.*—When a congregation has no pastor, or when he is absent, it may be profitable for the people to spend a part of the Sabbath in social worship, and if none capable of making appropriate remarks are present, let some one read an evangelical and instructive sermon.

CHAPTER V.

THE ORDINANCES OF FAMILY WORSHIP.

1. *Time of Family Worship.*—Family worship should be performed morning and evening, and all the members of the family should be present.†

2. *Leader.*—The head of the family should ordinarily conduct the services. If the husband is absent or disqualified, the believing wife should perform the duty. If another person who is qualified is present, he may be invited to lead in the worship.

3. *Order of Exercises.*—The exercises should consist of the singing of Psalms, of reading the Scriptures, and of prayer.

4. *Manner of Worship.*—Family worship ought not to be tedious. All should join in the singing. It may be profitable to read the Scriptures through in course. The prayer should have reference to the circumstances of the family, and should include petitions for the peace and prosperity of the congregation with which it is connected and of the church at large.

CHAPTER VI.

THE ORDINANCES OF SECRET WORSHIP.

1. *Importance of Secret Worship.*—Secret worship is indispensable to personal holiness. It should be performed daily.‡

---

* Mal. iii. 16. † Josh. xxiv. 15; Ps. xcii. 2. ‡ Ps. cxix. 164; Matt. vi. 6.

2. *Exercises.*—The exercises of secret worship are reading, meditation, self-examination, prayer and praise.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ORDINANCES OF EXTRAORDINARY WORSHIP.

1. *Reason of Extraordinary Worship.*—The dispensations of Providence will sometimes call men to peculiar acts of worship, and it is then right to appoint days to wait upon God in the duties required by the dispensation. Such days may be called days of extraordinary worship.

2. *Authority for Extraordinary Worship.*—The obligation to observe such days does not rest on human authority. It is found in the will of God, revealed in his word, and manifested in his providences; and when, in obedience to the clear call of Providence, civil rulers recommend, or ecclesiastical rulers appoint, the observance of such days, the people should heartily comply.

3. *Kinds of Extraordinary Worship.*—The principal kinds of extraordinary worship are, fasting, thanksgiving, and covenanting.

ARTICLE I.

FASTING.

1. *Occasions for Public Fasting.*—When severe judgments fall upon a nation or church, or if they seem to be imminent, or if some special blessing is to be sought, God commands that nation or church to humble itself by solemn religious fasting.*

2. *Manner of Observance.*—On the day appointed for fasting, food should be abstained from, or taken sparingly, and all unnecessary worldly labor, thoughts, conversation and pleasures should be laid aside. As much of the day as is convenient should be spent in the public worship of God. The exercises should be the same as those of ordinary public worship (see Chap. III.); but the Psalms that are sung, the Scriptures that are read, the prayers that are offered, and the sermons that are preached, should have special reference to the circumstances calling for the fast.

3. *Private Fasts.*—In addition to these public fasts, other times may be observed by particular congregations, families or individuals under special visitations of Providence. But the time selected for such fasts should generally be different from that appointed by the church or recommended by the civil magistrate.

ARTICLE II.

THANKSGIVING.

1. *Occasions for Thanksgiving.*—When God gives special tokens of his favor to a nation or church, men should unite in public thanksgiving.†

2. *Manner of Observance.*—A convenient portion of the day appointed for thanksgiving should be spent in the exercises of ordinary public worship (see Chap III.); but the mercies of the past and present should especially be remembered, and all the ser-

---

* Joel ii. 12. † Esther ix. 22.

vices should tend to develop a grateful spirit. It is well to take up a collection for some benevolent object, and to spend a portion of the day in works of Christian charity.

ARTICLE III.

COVENANTING.

1. *Occasions for Covenanting.*—Covenanting is a duty in which every believer has engaged; but there is a formal act of public social covenanting, in which congregations or churches may engage. It is an extraordinary duty to which God's people are called in times of special danger to the church, or of unusual awakening and reformation. But, as covenanting should be entirely voluntary, a refusal to engage in it should not expose an individual to censure or reproach.*

2. *Preparatory Steps.*—As this duty is peculiarly solemn, public notice of an intention to engage in it should be given at least four weeks beforehand; a series of preparatory exercises should be conducted, in which the minister should explain from the Scriptures the nature and design of the duty, and what is requisite in those who covenant with God; days of fasting should be observed, and much public and private prayer should be offered for the Divine presence and the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. *Manner of Observance.*—The form of bond or covenant, which may be prepared by each congregation for itself, or by some superior court of the church, and which should have special reference to the circumstances calling for covenanting, should be carefully and prayerfully examined by the people before the day fixed for the solemn service. When the day arrives, after the usual devotional exercises of public worship, let a sermon be preached appropriate to the occasion; let there be a brief rehearsal of all that has been done, and of what the people should do; and then let prayer for Divine direction and help be offered. After the prayer, let each covenanter lift the right hand, while the minister reads aloud the covenant, and at the close of the reading, let each bow the head in token of consent. Then let all come forward and sign their names to the covenant to which they have sworn. Let the services be then concluded with singing, exhortation, and the benediction.

CHAPTER VIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ARTICLE I.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

1. *Sabbath Schools under the Control of the Session.*—A Sabbath School should be established in every congregation.† The children of thechurch, and those of irreligious parents, should be gathered into it. It belongs to the Session to appoint the superintendent and teachers, to provide suitable text-books and reading matter, and to exercise a general control over the school. The pastor has, by virtue of his office, the supervision of the whole school, and he shall give such

* Josh. xxiv. 25.

† Prov. xxii. 6.

instruction to the superintendent and teachers, and make such examination of the scholars as may be proper.

2. *Superintendent and His Duties.*—The superintendent should be a man of piety, and, if practicable, a member of Session. It is his duty to classify the scholars, to assign classes to the teachers, to preserve order in the school and to direct its exercises.

3. *Teachers and their Duties*—The teachers should be members of the church, and men and women of earnest piety. It is their duty to be regular in their attendance, to instruct their scholars from the Holy Scriptures, the Shorter Catechism, and such other text-books as may be approved by the Session, to record the attendance and progress of their scholars, to visit them during the week, especially if absent on the Sabbath, and to use all proper means to bring them to a saving knowledge of the truth.

4. *Order of Exercises.*—The school should be opened and closed with brief devotional exercises, under the direction of the superintendent. The rest of the time should be employed in reciting and explaining the lessons of the day.

5. *Teachers' Prayer Meeting.*—The officers and teachers of the school should hold frequent meetings for conference and prayer.

6. *Library and Text-Books.*—The school should be provided with such catechisms, papers and books as present the truth in a clear and scriptural manner, and all books of a secular or amusing character should be carefully excluded.

7. *Mission Sabbath Schools.*—In destitute neighborhoods, Mission Sabbath Schools should be organized. In such cases, established congregations should aid in furnishing teachers and necessary appliances for the work.

ARTICLE II.

CATECHIZING.

1. *Importance, Place, &c., of Catechizing.*—As the duty of catechizing is of vital importance in promoting growth in grace, no pastor should omit it. It may be conducted either in a private family, or where a number of families is assembled. The classification of those to be catechized, the time, place, and frequency of the duty must be left to the discretion of the Session.

2. *Manner of Catechizing.*—In the performance of this duty, ministers should use the Larger and Shorter Catechisms and questions drawn from the Scriptures. The capacity and opportunities of individuals are always to be considered. If any are ignorant or timid, kindness and sympathy should be shown towards them. All should be led from first principles to a knowledge of those less evident, that they may eventually be instructed and established in the whole truth of the Christian system.*

ARTICLE III.

FAMILY VISITATION.

1. *Design of Family Visitation.*—Every pastor should visit the families of his congregation from time to time to ascertain their

---

* Heb. v. 12.

spiritual condition, and to exhort them to the faithful performance of their religious duties.

2. *Manner of its Performance.*—In family visitation, the minister should inquire in every household concerning the observance of family worship, and the attendance on the outward and ordinary means of grace; he should catechize, admonish, reprove, encourage, and comfort, as circumstances may require; and he should pray with the family, affectionately commending each individual to the care of God.

ARTICLE IV.

SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

1. *Necessity of Systematic Beneficence.*—The Scriptures make it an imperative duty to give a portion of our worldly substance to the Lord. And as system contributes to success in any work, every member of the church should reduce the duty of beneficence to a system.*

2 *Amount to be Given.*—The word of God requires all to give cheerfully, liberally, regularly, and according as God hath prospered them.†

3. *Pastors Should Instruct their People.*—Pastors should frequently instruct their people in regard to this important duty, urge its performance, and explain the design of the different Boards of the church, and the character of the work which they supervise.

4. *If a Person Refuses to Contribute.*—If any person of known pecuniary ability fails to give to benevolent objects, or if he contributes in a sparing manner, the Session should point out his obligation as revealed in the word of God, the importance of the duty, and the reward attending its faithful discharge; and if he still withholds from the treasury of the Lord, it is the duty of the Session to deal with him as an offender.

ARTICLE V.

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE.

1. *Marriage.*—Marriage is a solemn contract between one man and one woman,‡ instituted by God, and sanctioned and acknowledged by the civil law. Marriage is not peculiar to the church of Christ; yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord;§ and it is becoming to have the marriage solemnized with a religious service, and by a minister of the gospel.

2. *Parties in Marriage.*—The parties in marriage must not be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by the word of God.‖ They must be of years of discretion, and capable of making their own choice. If they are under age, the consent of their parents or guardians should be obtained by the minister before solemnizing the marriage.

3. *Ceremony of Marriage.*—The minister having satisfied himself that the parties have complied with the forms required by the

---

* 2 Cor. ix. 7.
† 1 Cor. xvi. 2.
‡ Matt. xix. 5.
§ 1 Cor. vii. 39.
‖ Lev. xviii.

laws of the land, shall cause the parties to stand together in the presence of a proper number of witnesses, and shall briefly address them in regard to the institution of marriage, and the obligations they are about to assume. Then, having joined their right hands, he shall address this marriage vow to the man: "Do you, A. B., take this woman, whom you now hold by the right hand, to be your wedded wife; and do you solemnly promise, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to be a loving and faithful husband unto her, till God shall separate you by death?" When this question is answered in the affirmative, he shall address this similar vow to the woman: "Do you, C. D., take this man, whom you now hold by the right hand, to be your wedded husband; and do you solemnly promise, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful, and obedient wife unto him, till God shall separate you by death?" When this question is answered in the affirmative, the minister shall say: "I pronounce you husband and wife; what, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." He shall then conclude the ceremony with a prayer for the Divine blessing to rest upon the newly-constituted family.

4. *When Solemnized.*—Marriage should not be solemnized on the Sabbath, or on a day of public fasting.

ARTICLE VI.

THE VISITATION OF THE SICK.

1. *Sick Should Send for the Elders.*—When members of the church are visited with sickness, they should send for their minister and elders, and seek their counsels and prayers.* But if a minister or elder knows of affliction in any of the families of the congregation, he should not wait for an invitation to visit them. Nor should he confine his visits to the sick of his congregation.

2. *Conversation with the Sick.*—In conversing with the sick, care should be taken to meet the wants of individual cases. If the sick is ignorant, he should be instructed; if he is careless he should be alarmed; if he is indulging in a false hope, he should be warned; if he is a believer, and depressed in spirit and walking in darkness, he should be comforted. The ability and willingness of Christ to save are in all cases appropriate subjects of conversation.

3. *Private Conversations.*—As the presence of friends and strangers prevents a full statement of feelings and views, conversations with the sick should often be in private.

4. *Prayer with the Sick.*—After a suitable time spent in conversation, the minister or elder should pray with and for the sick.† The prayer should be brief and earnest, and for such things as previous conversation has shown to be needful. When thought proper, a portion of the Scripture may be read in connection with the prayer.

ARTICLE VII.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

1. *State of the Dead Unchangeable.*—As nothing can affect or change the condition of the dead, every thing which savors of superstition or vain display should be avoided at funerals.

---

* James v. 14.

† James v. 14, 15.

2. *Not on the Sabbath.*—No funeral should take place on the Sabbath, except in cases of absolute necessity.

3. *Exercises at the House.*—Before the body is removed to the grave, the minister may read a portion of Scripture, offer a prayer, and make some remarks to comfort the mourners and warn the living.

III. RULES OF ORDER.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THEIR ELECTION.

1. *Officers.*—The officers of the Assembly shall be a moderator a principal clerk, and a second clerk.

2. *Election of Moderator.*—Immediately after the constitution of the Assembly, the commissioners shall, by ballot, choose one of their number to act as moderator for the ensuing year.

3. *Election of Clerks.*—The principal and the second clerks shall be elected by ballot, and their term of office shall be four years. They may be members of Assembly or not, as may be deemed expedient.

4. *Assistant Clerk.*—At the request of the stated clerks, the Assembly may choose an assistant clerk to serve during the sessions of the Assembly.

5. *Majority Necessary to Elect.*—It shall require a majority of all the votes cast to elect. In case there is no election on the first ballot, the Assembly shall proceed to ballot for the two candidates having the highest number of votes.

DUTIES OF THE MODERATOR.

6. *Constituting the Assembly.*—At the time appointed, the moderator of the last Assembly, or his alternate, or, in their absence, the oldest minister present, shall open the meeting with a sermon, constitute the Assembly with prayer, and preside until a new moderator is chosen.

7. *Enforcing the Rules.*—The moderator shall preside over the Assembly, and enforce its rules of order.

8. *Taking the Vote.*—When the deliberations on a particular subject are closed, the moderator shall give a concise and clear statement of the question, take the vote, and announce the result from the chair.

9. *Casting Vote.*—The moderator shall vote with the other members of the Assembly when the vote is taken by ballot. In any other case, if the Assembly is equally divided, he shall have the casting vote; but if he does not choose to vote, he may put the question a second time, and if the result is the same, the question shall be lost.

10. *Deciding Questions of Order.*—The moderator shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the Assembly by any two members; or he may, in the first instance, submit the question to the Assembly.

11. *Speaking from the Chair.*—The moderator may, without leaving the chair, speak to questions of order. But when he would express his views on any business before the Assembly, he must call some member to occupy the chair until he has concluded his remarks.

12. *Nominating Committees.*—Unless otherwise determined by a special motion, the moderator shall nominate all committees, subject to the confirmation of the the Assembly.

DUTIES OF THE CLERKS.

13. *Principal Clerk.*—The principal clerk shall keep a roll of members of the Assembly; call it at the opening of each session; record the transactions of the Assembly; preserve the records and all papers not otherwise disposed of, and sign all orders and official papers.

14. *Second Clerk.*—The second clerk shall have charge of all papers relating to statistics; prepare the forms; take the necessary measures for the collection of full and accurate statistical information, and, in the absence of the principal clerk, perform his duties.

15. *Docket.*—The clerks shall keep a docket with a full statement of business referred by a former Assembly, or left unfinished at a previous session; and shall keep an exact entry upon it of every item accepted for the consideration of the Assembly. All papers not referred, and reports, shall be put upon the docket in the order in which they are read, unless otherwise ordered by a vote.

QUORUM.

16. *Of How Many it Consists.*—"One-third of all the delegates duly commissioned, being assembled at the time and place appointed, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business." [Form of Government, Chap. V., Art. 4, Sec. 6.]

17. *In Case there is no Quorum.*—If a quorum is not assembled at the hour appointed, any two members shall be competent to adjourn from time to time, that an opportunity may be given for a quorum to assemble.

COMMITTEES.

18. *Standing Committees.*—At the next sitting after the election of moderator, or as soon thereafter as possible, the following standing committees shall be appointed, namely:

1. A Committee on Bills and Overtures.
2. A Judiciary Committee.
3. A Committee on Narrative and the State of Religion.
4. A Committee for each of the Boards of the Church.
5. A Committee on Sabbath Schools.
6. A Committee on Finance.
7. A Committee on Statistics.
8. A Committee on Correspondence.
9. A Committee on Devotional Exercises.
10. A Committee on Revision.
11. A Committee on Nominations.

19. *Bills and Overtures.*—The Committee on Bills and Overtures shall consist of seven members, and be charged with the consideration of all such proposals for public acts, or other measures of general interest, as shall be referred to them.

20. *Judiciary.*—The Judiciary Committee shall consist of seven members, and to it shall be referred all questions involving the interpretation of the existing laws and doctrines of the church.

21. *Narrative and State of Religion.*—The Committee on Narrative and the State of Religion shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred the reports of Presbyteries. It shall prepare a statement of the events of the past year, and of the state of religion throughout the church.

22. *Boards of the Church.*—The Committees for the Boards of the Church shall consist of five members each, and it shall be the duty of each to review the transactions of its Board, suggest new measures, and nominate persons to fill vacancies in the Board.

23. *Sabbath Schools.*—The Committee on Sabbath Schools shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred all reports and papers relating to Sabbath Schools. It shall be their duty to report on the Sabbath Schools of the church, and suggest any measures that would increase their usefulness.

24. *Finance.*—The Committee on Finance shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred the reports of the treasurers of the Assembly, and of the Boards, and all papers relating to finances; and it shall report necessary measures to secure liberal and systematic contributions to the funds and institutions of the church.

25. *Statistics.*—The Committee on Statistics shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred all papers and reports concerning statistics, and it shall propose any action necessary to secure full and correct statistical information.

26. *Correspondence.*—The Committee on Correspondence shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred all matters relating to intercourse with other churches.

27. *Devotional Exercises* —The Committee on Devotional Exercises shall consist of five members, and shall arrange all the religious exercises of the meeting, and nominate the preachers for the next Assembly.

28. *Revision.*—The Committee on Revision shall consist of five members, and to it shall be referred the minutes of the Assembly and of the Synods, and it shall report on the manner in which the minutes have been recorded, and whether the proceedings of the Synods have been according to Presbyterial order.

29. *Nominations.*—The Committee on Nominations shall nominate to the Assembly persons to fill the vacancies occurring in the Boards.

30. *Credentials.*—The Assembly shall, during its sessions, appoint a Committee on Credentials, consisting of two members, whose duty it shall be to prepare the roll for the next Assembly.

31. *Notification of Committees.*—The chairman of each committee shall be furnished with a list of its members, and a copy of the

minute of their appointment, when it contains any specification of their duty, together with all papers referred to them.

32. *Reports of Committees.*—The report of a committee, presented at the regular time in order of business, may be accepted without a motion, unless it contains something objectionable to the Assembly. But at any other time it may be accepted only on motion.

33. *Discharge of Committee.*—The acceptance of a report discharges the committee from the further consideration of the business, unless by vote recommitted to it.

34. *Committee of the Whole.*—As it may sometimes answer valuable ends for the members of the Assembly to confer together on certain subjects in a manner which would not consist with the strict rules of the court, the Assembly may resolve itself into a "Committee of the Whole," or extra-judicial conference.

35. *Rules.*—The moderator of the Assembly shall appoint a chairman to preside, whose duty it shall be to report to the Assembly business thus extra-judicially transacted. The rules of the Assembly shall be observed as far as they are applicable in the Committee of the Whole, excepting that the *previous question* cannot be called, the *ayes* and *nays* required, nor can there be an appeal from the decision of the chair.

36. *Report.*—The Committee of the Whole cannot adjourn; it must always rise and report to the Assembly. If the business referred thereto is not finished, the Committee, through its chairman, "reports progress, and asks leave to sit again," which the Assembly may grant or refuse, at its discretion.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

37. Each session of the Assembly shall be opened and closed with prayer.

The order of business at every session, unless suspended by a vote of two-thirds, shall be as follows:

1. Calling the roll and marking absentees.
2. Hearing the excuses of absentees, and censuring them, if their absence appears to have been unnecessary.
3. Reading and approving the minutes.
4. The presentation of letters, papers, petitions, or matters requiring reference.
5. The presentation of reports from standing and select committees.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business, in the order in which it was put on the docket.

MOTIONS.

38. *No Action or Speaking without a Motion.*—The Assembly cannot act but in virtue of a motion regularly in its possession; and no speaking shall be allowed without a formal motion, unless it is for explanation, or on questions of privilege.

39. *Motions must be Seconded and Announced.*—No motion shall be in possession of the Assembly until it is seconded, and announced by the moderator in the words of the motion.

40. *Motions Reduced to Writing.*—Every motion and amendment shall be reduced to writing, if the moderator or any member desires it.

41. *Name of Mover, etc., Recorded.*—The names of the person who moves, and of the person who seconds a motion, may be entered upon the minutes, at the discretion of the clerk.

42. *Withdrawing a Motion.*—Any member who makes a motion, shall have the liberty to withdraw it, with the consent of his second, before any debate has taken place thereon, but not afterwards, without the leave of the Assembly.

43. *Privileged Questions.*—When a question is under consideration, no motion shall be received except "to adjourn," "to lay on the table," for "the previous question," "to postpone indefinitely," "to postpone to a time certain," "to commit," or "to amend;" and these motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged.

44. *Use to be Made of Privileged Questions.*—These privileged questions are not designed to separate amendments or appendages from the main question, and consequently cannot be moved on each other, but upon the main question; except "to adjourn," and "to postpone to a time certain," may be amended as to the time; and "to commit" may be amended in the question of the committee, and instructions.

45. *Motion to Adjourn.*—A motion to adjourn is always in order, except when the Assembly is taking a vote, or when a member is speaking.

46. *Previous Question.*—Any two members may call for the Previous Question, which shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" If seconded by a majority of the members present, all debate shall cease, and the Assembly shall vote, first on pending amendments, if any, and then upon the main question.

47. *No Debate after Previous Question is Called.*—All incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the Previous Question, and pending such, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

48. *Motion to lay on the Table.*—The motion "to lay on the table" has for its object, the temporary removal of business from the consideration of the Assembly, and, if decided in the affirmative on the main question or on the amendment, removes the whole subject from before the Assembly, until it is again taken up.

49. *Indefinite Postponement.*—When any question is postponed indefinitely, the same shall not be acted upon again during the entire meeting of the Assembly, except by a vote of two thirds of the Assembly.

50. *Order of the Day.*—When a question is postponed to a "time certain," it becomes the "order of the day" for that time, and takes the precedence of all other business.

51. *Amendments.*—Motions are always open to amendment, even to the complete alteration of the motion.

52. *Number of Amendments.*—An amendment may itself be

amended, but no further complication in this way shall be permitted; and this last amendment shall be considered first.

53. *Substitutes.*—Substitutes for motions or resolutions may, with the consent of the Assembly, be admitted instead of the original motion and its appendages; but the effect of a substitute is to supersede the original motion altogether.

54. *Division of Question.*—If the question in debate contain several points, any two members may have the same divided, provided the division called for embodies a distinct principle, or statement of fact.

55. *Questions not Debatable.*—All motions "to put on the docket," "to adjourn," "for the previous question," "to lay on the table," "to take up business," in relation to the priority of business, and the admission of substitutes, shall be decided without debate.

56. *Reconsideration.*—A motion for reconsideration can be made only by a member who voted with the majority, and unless by consent of two thirds of the members present, can be entertained only when offered at the same, or next subsequent sitting of the Assembly.

57. *Notice of Motion.*—A motion on any subject connected with the doctrine, discipline, government, or order of the church, shall not be considered until the second sitting after the one at which it is offered.

DEBATE.

58. *Obtaining the Floor.*—When a member desires to address the Assembly, he must rise and address the moderator, and he may not proceed until the moderator recognizes him, and announces his name. The moderator shall always give the floor to the member who first addresses him, or to the one farthest from the chair, when two or more address him at the same time.

59. *Decorum of Members.*—Every member, when speaking, shall address himself to the moderator, and to no other person, except through the moderator; he shall treat his fellow members, and especially the moderator, with decorum and respect, and shall attend closely, in his speech, to the question under consideration.

60. *Calls to Order.*—If any speaker acts, in any respect, in a disorderly manner, it shall be the privilege of any member, and the duty of the moderator, to call him to order; and a member thus called to order shall immediately take his seat, until it is determined whether he was out of order or not, or until leave is given him by the Assembly to proceed.

61. *Number of Speeches.*—On questions of order, postponement, commitment, or matters which have been discussed in Committee of the Whole, no member shall speak more than once, without express leave of the Assembly. On all other questions, each member may speak twice.

62. *End of Debate.*—When the moderator has risen to take the vote, no further debate or remark shall be admitted, unless there has evidently been a mistake; in this case, the mistake shall be rectified, and he shall recommence taking the vote.

VOTING.

63. *Taking the Vote.*—Before taking the vote, the motion shall be repeated by the moderator, who shall put the question in the following form: "As many as are in favor of the motion will say, *Aye.*" After the affirmative is expressed: "As many as are opposed will say, *No.*"

64. *Division.*—If there is any doubt as to the result of the vote, the moderator, or any member, may call for a division of the house; the moderator shall then repeat the motion, and shall require the *Ayes* to rise and be counted, and then the *Nays* to rise and be counted in like manner, and shall pronounce accordingly.

65. *Ayes and Nays.*—One-fourth of the members present may demand the *Ayes and Nays* on any question; the roll shall then be called, and the vote of each member recorded in the minutes.

66. *Non-Voters.*—Members, without weighty reasons, are not to decline voting. Silent members, unless excused from voting, are reckoned with the majority.

67. *Interested Parties.*—No member shall have the privilege of voting on a question in which he is personally interested, or in any case where he was not present when the question was put, unless with the consent of the Assembly.

68. *Filling Blanks.*—When various propositions are made with respect to filling blanks with particular numbers, sums, or times, the question shall always be on the highest number, the largest sum, and the longest or remotest time.

69. *Appeals.*—Any two members feeling aggrieved by a decision of the moderator may appeal to the Assembly, whose determination of the matter shall be final. The question shall be put in this form: "Shall the decision of the moderator be sustained?"

MISCELLANEOUS.

70. *Leave of Absence.*—No member may absent himself from the sessions of the Assembly without its consent.

71. *Private Sessions.*—The Assembly has the right to sit with closed doors on business, which, in its judgment, ought not to be made a matter of public notoriety.

72. *Final Adjournment.*—The Assembly shall close its meeting with prayer, singing, and the benediction.

73. *Printing Minutes.*—The minutes of the Assembly shall be published by the Board of Publication, under the direction of the clerks, as soon as possible after the adjournment.

74. *Amendments.*—These rules of order may be suspended or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Assembly.

75. *Rules in Lower Courts.*—All Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions, under the care of the Assembly, are directed to observe these rules of order so far as applicable.

IV. DIGEST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL ACTS AND DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I. AMUSEMENTS.

Dancing, Theatrical Exhibitions, &c.—*Resolved*, That the members of the United Presbyterian Church be exhorted to avoid all association with men of the world in vain and ensnaring recreations, such as promiscuous dancing, theatrical exhibitions, and such like amusements as are adapted to alienate the affections from God, and expose the Christian character to reproach; and that pastors and Sessions be careful to warn those under their care in relation to the danger of having any fellowship with the world in any such practices. Vol. I, p. 120, 1860.

II. APPEALS.

1. **Parties to an Appeal.**—[In M'Cune's case, Rev. Samuel Wilson and others, members of Synod, appealed from a decision of the Second Synod, and the Synod was recognized by the Assembly as a party. Vol. II, pp. 395, 413, 1867.]

In an appeal from a lower court, the lower court becomes a party in the case before the higher court, and appears there as such by its authorized agents. Vol. II, p. 409, 1867.

[In Gordon's appeal, the appeal was declared inadmissible because the appellants were not original parties in the case, and because the interests of truth and righteousness were not injuriously affected by the decision of the Synod. Vol. III, p. 420, 1872.]

2. **Papers in the Case of an Appeal may be Amended.**—[An appeal from the Second Synod was endorsed by the moderator of that Synod as having been put in his hands on a certain date, which was two days over the time specified in the Book of Discipline, it appearing from the statement, both of the appellants and of the moderator, that the appeal with the reasons thereof was placed in his hands before the expiration of the specified time, he was permitted to correct his endorsement by the following action:]

Resolved, 1. That the moderator of the Second Synod is hereby permitted to amend his endorsement of the appeal according to the facts.

2. That upon this correction, the Assembly proceed to the issuing of the appeal. Vol. II, p. 398, 1867. [A dissent against this action was entered, Vol. II, p. 401, 1867, and answered, Vol. II, p. 408, 1867.]

3. **The Right of Members of a Lower Court to Vote in the Case of an Appeal.**—The following amendment was submitted to the Presbyteries as a separate overture: Strike out the last clause in Book II, Chap. XII, Sec. 2, and insert the following: "When a matter is transferred in any of these ways from an inferior to a superior judicatory, the inferior judicatory shall, in no case, be considered a party, except in cases of declinature; but its members shall have the right to sit, deliberate and vote in the higher courts. Vol. I, p. 351, 1962. [The vote on this overture was, ayes, 275; nays, 192; not voting, 13. Vol. I, p. 490, 1863. The Book of Government and Discipline, adopted in 1866, declares that "the members of the inferior court shall have the right to sit and deliberate, but not to vote." In the case of an appeal from the Synod of Illinois, a question relative to the right of the Synod to vote was raised, when the following resolution was offered:]

Resolved, That Section 3, Chapter XII, in the Book of Government, is not considered by this Assembly as giving it authority to exclude any Synod in the Assembly from voting on an appeal, except in motions where the Synod is a party in the case.

* * The following amendment was offered:

Inasmuch as the question as to members of an inferior court voting in a superior in all cases of judicial transfer was, by the General Assembly, overtured some time ago to the Presbyteries and decided in the affirmative by the large majority of eighty-three votes; and inasmuch as this decision, coming from the Presbyteries, became virtually from that time forth the law of the church on this subject and wanted only the formality of enactment on the part of the Assembly of being regularly and fully said law; and inasmuch as it is a notorious fact that the rule on this subject in our Book of Government is, through oversight on the part of the church, entirely inconsistent with said decision; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That this matter be overtured anew to the Presbyteries for final decision.

2. That in the meantime, the previous decision of the Presbyteries on this subject be accepted, as the law by which we are to be governed.

This amendment was laid upon the table. The moderator decided that the members of the Synod of Illinois had not a right to vote on the question of the adoption of the report. An appeal was taken from this decision, but it was not sustained. Vol. II, pp. 394, 395, 1867. [A dissent with reasons was entered, Vol. II, p. 395, and answered, Vol. II, p. 409, 1867.]

4. **Proposed Amendment to the Article on Appeals in the Book of Government.**—The amendments suggested would not materially improve the present article on appeals. * * Therefore,

Resolved, That the matter of revising Article III, Chapter XII, of the Book of Government, be indefinitely postponed. Vol. III, p. 287, 1871.

5. **Presbyteries may, in Exceptional Cases, Appeal Directly to the Assembly.**—The Presbytery of Oregon signify their cordial reception of the Testimony and other doctrinal standards of the United Presbyterian Church; but owing to their remote position, they reserve the right of final jurisdiction over all matters, except such as may be appealed directly to the General Assembly; and moreover, reserve the right of sending delegates to the General Assembly, as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, That the General Assembly cordially acquiesce in the proposal of the Presbytery of Oregon, and regard it as one of the Presbyteries under its care. Vol. I, p. 107, 1860.

III. ASSOCIATE REFORMED SYNOD OF THE SOUTH.

1. **Correspondence with the Associate Reformed Synod of the South.**—*Resolved*, That this Assembly appoint a deputation to carry our salutations to the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church South, to meet in Winnsborough, South Carolina, and invite them to open a correspondence with this Assembly by delegation. Vol. II, p. 487, 1868. [The next Assembly received a communication from a committee of the Associate Reformed Synod, "setting forth that for the present it is not expedient that a correspondence be established between the churches," when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That another commissioner to the Associate Reformed Synod of the South be not appointed until such time as we may be assured by that body of a readiness to enter into a friendly correspondence with us. Vol. III, p. 11, 1869. [Delegates from the Associate Reformed Synod of the South appeared on the floor of the Assembly in 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878.]

2. **Co-operation with the Associate Reformed Synod of the South in Mission Work.**—*Resolved*, That this Assembly will appoint a delegation to attend the next meeting of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, and assuring its members of our fraternal regards, and of our desire for its prosperity in the maintenance and extension of the truth, invite them to co-operate with us in the Home and Foreign Mission work, and in mutual efforts to promote the cause of our common Lord. Vol. III, p. 515, 1873.

Resolved, That in view of the sympathy that it is believed there is between the Associate Reformed Synod of the South and the United Presbyterian Church, in their principles, faith and usages in the worship of God, and in view of the work that it is also believed is opening up for these churches together, in home and foreign

fields, the Assembly deem it entirely desirable, and indulge the hope that it is practicable, that they should be brought into an organic union as soon as the providence of God shall indicate that the time has come for it. Vol. IV, p. 10, 1874.

Resolved, That [a committee] be appointed to confer with the committee appointed by the Associate Reformed Synod of the South in relation to co-operation in mission work. Vol. IV, p. 177, 1875. [This joint committee prepared the following basis of co-operation, which was approved by the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 314, 1876.]

In view of the common origin and substantial unity of the churches represented, the following resolutions were, after mature consideration, unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1. That the Presbyteries of each body shall sustain the same relation to those of the other as they do to the co-ordinate courts of their own; and that the ministers and licentiates of each shall be eligible to appointments and settlements in the congregations of the other.

2. That the courts of each shall respect the discipline of the other.

3. That the ministers and members of the two bodies are recommended to cultivate friendly relations and Christian fellowship with each other as God, in his providence, may offer opportunity.

4. That the two bodies shall co-operate in the several departments of work on the following plan:

I. That the existing relations of the two churches in regard to the work of Foreign Missions shall be continued.

II. That in the Home field neither body shall interfere with the other; but that either may grant such aid in men and means as may be requested by the proper authorities of the other.

III. That the two bodies shall co-operate in building up and sustaining the Normal or Training School of the United Presbyterian Church for the Freedmen, established at Knoxville, Tennessee, the great object of which is to furnish teachers and preachers for that class of people.

IV. That in the cause of Church Extension, we recommend the same co-operation as in the work of Home Missions.

V. That in the work of Publication, the Associate Reformed Synod of the South co-operate in the support of the Board of the United Presbyterian Church; that the Synod shall have a claim on the Board to an amount in books, at wholesale value, equal to their contributions, and that the Board supply the churches and individuals of the Synod with such publications as they may need on the most favorable terms.

5. That in the judgment of the members of the Joint Committee, the providence of God seems to be opening the way for closer relations between the two churches represented by them, and they recommend that the ministers and members of the churches look forward to such event as one that promises much for the glory of God and the advancement of his cause.

6. That the foregoing action of the Conference be published in the periodicals of the two churches, and recommended to the

General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Synod of the South for their adoption. Vol. IV, p. 358, 1876.

3. **Union with the Associate Reformed Synod of the South.**—*Resolved*, That in view of the sympathy that it is believed there is between the Associate Reformed Synod of the South and the United Presbyterian Church, in their principles, faith, and usages in the worship of God, and in view of the work that it is also believed is opening up for these churches together, in home and foreign fields, the Assembly deem it entirely desirable, and indulge the hope that it is practicable, that they should be brought into an organic union, as soon as the providence of God shall indicate that the time has come for it:

Resolved, That the Assembly will appoint delegates to attend the next meeting of the Synod of that church, and that these delegates be instructed to act as divine Providence shall direct in regard to the propriety of proposing, or acceding to the appointment of a committee of Assembly, to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Synod, on the whole subject of co-operation or organic union. Vol. IV, p. 10, 1874.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this Assembly to confer with any similar committee that may be appointed by the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, to which the general subject of union between the United Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Synod shall be referred; said committee to report to the next General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 314, 1876.

[This committee was continued. Vol. IV, p. 454, 1877; Vol. IV, p. 575, 1878.]

IV. ASSOCIATE SYNOD.

Transfer of Funds from the Associate Synod.—*Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church most thankfully accepts [from the Associate Synod] the generous appropriation of the moneys arising from the accrued rents and interests of the "Speer estate."

2. That the trustees of this General Assembly be directed to receive and receipt for these funds.

3. That the Board of Trustees be instructed to pay over to the Board of Education two-thirds of the moneys thus received, and that the remaining one-third be divided as follows: Two-fifths to the Board of Home Missions, and three-fifths to the Board of Foreign Missions. Vol. III, p. 141, 1870. [Vol. III, p. 135, 1870.]

V. BAPTISM.

1. **Arian Baptism.**—"Are Sessions, in receiving persons from that denomination of Arians called 'Christians,' to require that they be re-baptized?" In our judgment such applicants for fellowship in the church should be regarded as unbaptized persons, inasmuch as a community of Arians, denying the true and proper divinity of Jesus and his atonement, by whatever name they may

be denominated, is not entitled to be considered as a part of the visible church of Christ. Vol. I, p. 112, 1860.

2. **Papal Baptism.**—[The question of the validity of Papal Baptism was, by the Assembly of 1869, referred to a special committee. This committee presented a report, Vol. III, p. 151, 1870, when the following resolution was passed by a vote of 77 to 19.]

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Assembly, Papal Baptism should not be regarded as valid. Vol. III, p. 151, 1870.

[This resolution was afterwards reconsidered, when the following was adopted by a vote of two-thirds:]

WHEREAS, The subject of Papal Baptism is one of great importance, and one on which there is a diversity of opinion; therefore,

Resolved, That the Assembly overture to the Presbyteries the following question: Is Papal Baptism valid? Vol. III, p. 151, 1870.

[The vote on this overture was ayes, 41; nays, 494; not voting, 82. The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted:]

Resolved, 1. That we hereby declare that the question overtured on the validity of Papal Baptism is answered in the negative.

2. That while, as a general rule Papal Baptism should be regarded as invalid, yet, as it is believed by many in the church that there are important exceptions to this rule; therefore this Assembly judges it expedient to leave the question of re-baptizing persons from the Papal Church to the discretion of Sessions. Vol. III, p. 282, 1871.

3. **Formula of Questions for Baptism.**—*Resolved*, That the committee on the Directory for Worship be instructed to prepare a formula of questions to be used in the administration of baptism, and that when adopted, said formula be inserted in the Directory for Worship and the Book of Discipline; and further, that in the application of this, and the formula in the case of admission of members, Sessions are affectionately recommended to use great tenderness towards the weak, or such as are earnestly inquiring after the truth. Vol. II, p. 31, 1864.

VI. BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Resolved, That this General Assembly earnestly recommends to to its members the diligent perusal of the Scriptures for their personal profit, and the use of such works as may lead them to a better understanding of the truth, and so be more successful in teaching their children; to carefully practice the truth, and to use all proper means to secure the use of the Bible in the schools of our land, so that the word of God may be glorified in the future even more than in the past. Vol. IV, p. 321, 1876.

VII. BOARDS OF THE CHURCH

1. **General Constitutions of the Boards of the Church.**—[General rules, touching the matters intrusted to the care of the of the Boards, were adopted, Vol. I, p. 49, 1859, but they were superseded by constitutions and regulations afterwards adopted. The constitutions and regulations of the several Boards will be found

under the names of the Boards. The General Constitution is as follows:]

1. The several Boards now in existence, or that may be established hereafter, shall each be composed of nine members, one-third of whom shall be elected annually, by the General Assembly, for a term of three years. A majority of members of any Board shall be a quorum. Vacancies occurring between meetings of the Assembly may be filled temporarily by the Board in which they occur.

2. There shall be, for each Board, a corresponding secretary, elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years, who shall be ex-officio a member of the Board, and shall receive a salary, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Assembly. The corresponding secretaries of the Boards shall have the right to speak in the Assembly on all questions relating to the Boards with which they are severally connected. Vacancies occurring in this office, between meetings of the General Assembly, may be temporarily filled by the respective Boards in which they occur.

3. The several Boards shall elect, annually, all other necessary officers, and shall require such security of their treasurers as may, in each case, be judged necessary. They shall meet at least quarterly, and shall have power to make all proper and necessary By-Laws.

4. The Boards shall be responsible and amenable to the General Assembly for the exercise of all powers entrusted to them.

5. Each Board shall be incorporated under the laws of the State in which it may be located, and shall receive and hold all property, legacies and funds in the corporate name. Until a legal incorporation is obtained, all property, legacies and funds belonging to any Board, shall be taken and held in the name of "The Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," in trust, for the use and benefit of the Board, but shall be legally transferred to the Board when incorporated.

6. Each Board shall make an annual report to the General Assembly, stating fully its proceedings, condition and needs, and shall submit for consideration and approval, such plans and measures as may be in contemplation, and make such recommendations as shall be judged advantageous to the cause entrusted to its care. The Boards shall also submit a statement of their work, needs and plans to the several Synods, at their annual meetings.

7. The treasurers of the different Boards shall keep accounts in proper form, of all moneys, whether for the general work, or special funds, and shall, through the Board, report annually, to the General Assembly, the exact condition of the several funds, giving a detailed and classified statement of all receipts and disbursements, which shall be published in the minutes of the General Assembly. It shall be the duty of each Board to audit its treasurer's accounts at the close of each year.

8. Each Board shall publish monthly or quarterly statements of its condition and work, and no Board shall appoint or employ any soliciting agent, without the direct authority of the Assembly.

9. The General Constitution, or the particular Constitution of any Board, may be altered or amended by a majority of all the

commissioners to any General Assembly, provided the motion for such change shall be made at least one day before action is taken. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

2. **Amendment to the General Constitution of the Boards.**—*Resolved*, That Article 2 of the Constitution of the Boards be amended by the addition of the following clause, viz.: "Vacancies occurring in this office, between meetings of the General Assembly, may be temporarily filled by the respective Boards in which they occur." Vol. IV, p. 454, 1877.

3. **Conference on the Boards of the Church.**—*Resolved*, That the first and second business evenings of the Assembly be spent in a conference upon the Boards, and that each Board be directed to appoint one of its members to represent it in the exercises of the meeting. Vol. III, p. 31, 1869.

Resolved, That the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of 1869, setting apart the first and second business evenings of the Assembly for a conference on the Boards, be and is hereby repealed. Vol. IV, p. 449, 1877.

4. **Reports of the Boards to be Printed for the Use of the Assembly.**—*Resolved*, That the different Boards of the church and the Trustees of the General Assembly shall have their reports printed in uniform style, so that they may be filed and ready for use at the first session of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 535, 1873.

4. **Corresponding Secretaries of the Boards.**—See Corresponding Secretaries.

6. **Treasurers of the Boards.**—See Treasurers.

7. **Monthly Statements of the Boards.**—[A memorial, asking that the Boards employ printed circulars for monthly statements, was disposed of as follows:]

Resolved, That no action in the direction indicated in the memorial appears to be practicable at present. Vol. IV, p. 447, 1877.

VIII. BOOK OF GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE.

1. **Temporary Arrangement for the Government of the Church.**—*Resolved*, That it be left to the discretion of each Presbytery to adopt for its use, either the Associate or Associate Reformed Book of Discipline until one shall be prepared by the United Church. Vol. I, p. 38, 1859.

2. **Preparation of a Book of Government and Discipline.**—*Resolved*, That this Assembly appoint a committee to prepare a draft of a Book of Discipline, and present it to the next annual meeting of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 30, 1859.

[This committee presented a draft of a Book of Discipline, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the Book of Discipline, submitted by the committee appointed by the last Assembly, be overtured to the Presbyteries for their consideration, and that they be instructed to report their

judgment thereon to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 121, 1860.

[The Presbyteries reported their judgment, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the Book of Discipline, with all the reports of the Presbyteries thereon, and any amendments of Presbyteries, or of individuals, which may be sent in to them, up to the first of November next, be committed to a select committee, who shall mature and publish the work that is hereby sent down to the Presbyteries in overture, and that they report on the book, ay or no, to the next Assembly. Vol. I, p. 225, 1861.

[Only twenty-six Presbyteries reported on the Book of Discipline. Of this number, sixteen reported favorably. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly proceed to consider and pass on the amendments proposed.

2. That the Book of Discipline as thus amended be printed and published as early as November 1st, 1862, and overtured to Presbyteries and Sessions, with direction to vote ay or nay, and report to the next General Assembly.

3. That in the meanwhile Presbyteries and Sessions be recommended to conduct their business in conformity with its regulations. Vol. I, p. 350, 1862.

[The vote of the Presbyteries on the adoption of the Book of Government and Discipline was, ayes, 379; nays, 80; not voting, 19. But inasmuch as the Book was not published in time to afford opportunity for a thorough consideration of it by Presbyteries and Sessions, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly refer the Book to a committee for revision and improvement, and that it be considered as authoritative until the revised Book is adopted.

2. That this committee be instructed to receive suggestions from Presbyteries and individuals until the first of November, and that then the committee meet and devote as much time to the work as may be necessary to complete it, and that the Presbyteries be instructed to supply the pulpits of so many of them as may be pastors, while they are engaged in this work.

3. That when completed, the Book be published immediately by the Board of Publication, and sent up to the next Assembly for consideration. Vol. I, p. 491, 1863.

[This committee not having completed the revision, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the work of revision be continued, and that it be entrusted to a committee composed of members who can conveniently meet and give it the proper attention.

2. That it be left discretionary with the committee to what extent the revision shall be carried. Vol. II, p. 22, 1864.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, Vol. II, p. 158, 1865, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the committee be directed to publish, without delay, the draft of a Book of Government and Discipline submitted

by them to this General Assembly, and that the expense of publication be defrayed by the sale of the Book.

2. That the Book be and hereby is overtured to the Presbyteries, with instructions to vote yea or nay on its adoption; also, to suggest such amendments as they may deem necessary, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 158, 1865.

[The vote on this overture was, for the Book, 367; against, 45; not voting, 6. The following final action was taken:]

Resolved, That the Book of Government and Discipline now in overture before the church be, and the same is hereby adopted, and is to be regarded from and after this date as the organic law of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Vol. II, p. 301, 1866.

[For Book of Government and Discipline, see Digest, p. 13.]

3. **Amendments to the Book of Government and Discipline.**—[Part II, Chapter V, Section 4, first clause, "these trial exercises shall be heard at the time of licensure," was overtured to the Presbyteries, when it was stricken out by the following vote: ayes, 549; nays, 52; not voting, 21. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.]

[The amending of Article III, Chapter XII, "On Appeals," was indefinitely postponed. Vol. III, p. 287, 1871.]

IX. CENTENNIAL OF THE NATION.

WHEREAS, This is not only the centennial of our nation, but also, in a measure, of our church, the original elements of it having been organized a little over one hundred years ago; and,

WHEREAS, Civil governments, as well as ecclesiastical, are the institutions of God; and,

WHEREAS, We recognize the hand of God in planting civil and religious liberty in our land, in establishing our government, and maintaining it through the first century of its existence; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we express our thanks to Almighty God for that enlightened civilization which the religion of Jesus alone can give, for his goodness to us as a nation, for our wonderful growth, for our freedom, so firmly and so broadly established, for the advance of education and spread of learning, and for his hand, so plainly guiding us through both peace and war during the first century of our national existence.

2. That we thankfully declare that ours is a Christian nation, and that it should support Christian institutions, the Christian Sabbath, the oath before Almighty God, the Bible in the common schools, and religious worship in our army and navy.

3. That believing governments should be a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well, we deplore the existence in our government, and under its laws, of great national sins, corruption in high places, Sabbath desecration, intemperance, polygamy and such like; and we pledge ourselves to the work, and call upon all Christian citizens to join us in the great work of national reformation, so that during the next century righteousness may be decreed by law, and all sin, as ashamed, hide its head. Vol. IV, p. 321, 1876.

X. CHARTERS.

1. **Charter of the General Assembly.**—See General Assembly.

2. **Charters of the Boards.**—See the several Boards.

3. **Charters of Congregations.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly hereby directs Presbyteries in the organization of new churches to require that the charter of said churches shall contain the following formula, as a definition of the ecclesiastical relation of said churches to the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America: "State (or county) of ———. To all to whom these presents may come, *greeting:* Know ye, that the persons, whose names are hereunto subscribed, citizens of the State (or Commonwealth) of ———, having associated themselves together as a church and congregation for the purpose of worshiping Almighty God, by the name of the 'United Presbyterian Church of ———,' in connection with the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

And that the following clause be inserted in every deed of conveyance of property:

"In trust that said premises shall be used and kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine worship, for the use of the ministers and members of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, subject to the standards and acts of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Assembly of said church; and in case the congregation should cease to exist, or to be connected with and subject to the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of said church, or shall lose its corporate existence, the property shall enure in all its holdings to the Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

2. It is also earnestly recommended that existing charters be changed to conform to this formula, and clause in the deed.

5. That Presbyteries are hereby directed to make an official examination of the charters of the particular churches under their care, as to the powers granted the trustees, and especially as to the ecclesiastical relations of said churches, and report to the next General Assembly the result of said examination. Vol. III, p. 523, 1873.

[For full form of a charter for a congregation as recommended by the Trustees of the General Assembly, see Vol. IV, p. 47, 1874.]

XI. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly express its grateful recognition of the Divine agency in raising up the United States Christian Commission, and in directing their operations.

2. That this commission be recommended to the sympathy and co-operation of all the congregations under the care of this General Assembly, and that all be invited to aid this association in the prosecution of its beneficent work. Vol. I, p. 476, 1863.

Resolved, That the General Assembly having heard with deep

interest the statements of George H. Stuart, Esq., respecting the operations and purposes of the United States Christian Commission, hereby express devout thanksgiving to God for what has been accomplished by this association, in furnishing the soldiers of our army, and the marines and sailors of our navy, with the means of relief to their bodies and of salvation to their souls, and earnestly commend it to the continued confidence, the sympathy, the liberal contributions, and the fervent prayers of our people, in this hour of the pressing need of our noble army and navy. Vol. II, p. 10, 1864.

Resolved, 1. That we owe the highest gratitude to God for the great benefits that have been conferred upon our suffering soldiers, upon the church and the land, by his blessing upon the labors of the United States Christian Commission.

2. That we gratefully commend the labors of our ministers and the liberality of our people in their hearty co-operation with this society, and we earnestly recommend them to continue their labors of love so long as the condition of our army shall furnish them opportunity. Vol. II, p. 165, 1865.

XII. CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

On this subject the memorialist assumes that the United Presbyterian Church practically accepts the theory of the post-millennial coming of Christ, and of the purely spiritual nature of his millennial kingdom, and asks in view of the importance of the subject, that the Assembly shall give a statement of the ground of the theory which he attributes to the church. Also, he states that a refusal on the part of the Assembly to state the ground of the theory, will be accepted by him as an acknowledgement, on the part of the church, that there is no ground for such a theory. In reply to the memorialist, your committee present the following:

1. It may be true, that practically the mass of the members of United Presbyterian Church accept the theory that Christ's coming will be post-millennial, and that his millennial kingdom will be purely spiritual, but the church has never officially declared this to be her faith. To make any theory on this question an article of the faith of the church, would necessitate the adoption of a system of interpretation, and a particular application of prophecy to that theory, which must not only be enforced by the teaching, but also by the discipline of the church—things utterly impracticable.

2. A refusal by the church, therefore, to adopt a theory respecting the time of Christ's second coming, and the particular nature of his millennial kingdom, and to give the ground of such theory, does not warrant the conclusion that the church thus acknowledges that there is no ground for that theory.

We recommend for adoption the following:

Resolved, That the prayer of the memorialist be not granted. Vol. IV, p. 446, 1877.

XIII. CHURCH EXTENSION, BOARD OF.

1. **Charter of the Board of Church Extension.**—[Granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny county, in the Com-

monwealth of Pennsylvania, March 6, 1871; recorded in the office for the recording of deeds in said county, in Charter Book No. 3, page 306, March 10, 1871; and accepted and approved by the Assembly, Vol. III, p. 277, 1871.]

ARTICLE I. Be it remembered that Rev. Robert Gracey, D. D., George McCague, John Dean, Rev. R. B. Ewing, Rev. Thomas H. Hanna, Samuel Dyer, Rev. John S. Sands, Rev. J. W. Witherspoon, and William Reed, and their successors, elected and appointed as hereinafter directed, being citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are hereby associated under the name and title of "The Board of Church Extension of the United Presbyterian Church of North America;" and by the said name and title shall have succession and be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or courts, and in all causes and matters whatsoever; to make and use a common seal, and to alter or renew the same at pleasure; to purchase, receive, acquire, hold, use and dispose of for the purpose and objects herein named, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises, moneys, goods, chattels and hereditaments; to make rules, by-laws and ordinances, not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or to this instrument.

ARTICLE II. The object of said association shall be to promote the extension of the United Presbyterian Church of North America by the purchase and acquisition of real estate and the erection of church edifices, and by other lawful and appropriate means.

ARTICLE III. The officers of the association shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and such other officers and agents as may from time to time be appointed. The treasurer shall give bond to the corporation in such form, for such sum and with such sureties as may be determined and approved by a majority of the corporators, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE IV. The association shall consist of the following persons and their successors, namely: Rev. Robert Gracey, D. D., George McCague and John Dean, who have been elected and appointed members of said Board to serve until their successors shall be elected in the year 1871, as provided in Article VI, of this instrument; Rev. R. B. Ewing, Rev. Thomas H. Hanna, and Samuel Dyer, who have been appointed to serve until their successors shall be in like manner elected in the year 1872, and Rev. John S. Sands, Rev. J. W. Witherspoon and William Reed who have been appointed to serve until their successors shall be elected in the year 1873, and the corresponding secretary of [*i. e.*, appointed by] "the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," (now being Rev. A. G. Wallace,) and his successor in office shall be *ex-officio*, a member of said Board; and six of said members or their successors in office, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the said Board shall in its By-Laws determine the times and places of holding meetings, and the manner of giving notice of all meetings not appointed by

adjournment. Said Board shall once in each year exhibit to the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, an exact statement of the accounts, funds and property of the association.

ARTICLE V. Said corporation shall be situated and have its principal business transacted in the county of Allegheny in said commonwealth.

ARTICLE VI. The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America shall, in 1871, and annually thereafter, elect three persons as members of this association to serve for a period of three years, and in case of a vacancy in the membership of said Board by reason of death, resignation or other cause, the remaining members of said Board shall elect a person to fill the unexpired term, provided that such election shall be reported to the next General Assembly.

ARTICLE VII. The officers and agents of this association shall be elected or appointed from time to time in the manner, and for such term, as shall be prescribed in the By-Laws.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Church Extension.**—[A Constitution for the Board of Church Extension was adopted, Vol. I, p. 48, 1859, but it was superseded by the General Constitution of the Boards, and the following new Constitution:]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Church Extension of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Pittsburgh.

2. The special objects of this Board shall be to aid mission stations and congregations to obtain suitable houses of worship. It shall have power to make appropriations of money, either as donations or as loans for a definite time; to authorize special contributions for particular parts of its work; to hold funds and property absolutely, or in trust for congregations; to institute legal proceedings in behalf of the United Presbyterian Church to prevent the alienation of, or to recover, funds and property for which contributions have been made by the Board, or by the church at large, and to do such other things as may be necessary for the accomplishment of its object. But the appropriations of each year shall not exceed the amount authorized by the General Assembly for that year, and only such property shall be held as may be necessary for the legitimate purposes of the Board. Vol. IV, p. 24, 1874.

3. **Regulations of the Board of Church Extension.**—[Regulations for the Board of Church Extension were adopted, Vol. III, p. 277, 1871, and published, Vol. III, p. 311, 1871; but they were superseded by the following new regulations:]

1. No appropriation shall be made except on the application of a Presbytery for a place under its care.

2. Ordinarily the appropriations for a congregation, may not exceed one-third of the cost of the house, and may not be made for any house costing over $20,000.

3. All appropriations shall be made on the following conditions:

1. The property shall be held in fee simple, and be secured to the church according the rule of the Assembly.

II. A mortgage shall be given for the repayment of the loan, and a mortgage for the donation, securing the repayment of the money, with interest, in case the congregation shall fail, or shall cease to be connected with the United Presbyterian Church, or shall alienate or encumber the property without the consent of the Board. The interest on loans made without interest shall be regarded as a donation, and with all moneys contributed directly by other congregations or members of the United Presbyterian Church, shall be included in the mortgage for a donation.

III. Ordinarily the appropriation shall leave the property free from debt except to the Board.

IV. The congregation shall not solicit aid outside of its own community without the consent of the Board.

4. Appropriations not called for within two years shall be considered withdrawn, and may be renewed only on the application of the Presbytery.

5. Application for aid shall be made in the form approved by the Assembly. The vote in the Presbytery shall be taken by ballot, and the ayes and nays shall be reported with the application.

6. The Superintendent of Missions shall be the agent of the Board, through whom all appropriations shall be paid.

7. The appropriation may be paid only when the mortgage or satisfactory security shall be given by the congregation. All expenses involved in obtaining aid shall be borne by the congregation. Vol. IV, p. 24, 1874.

Resolved, That the two following regulations be added to those now in use in the Board, and that the corresponding secretary be instructed to prepare such blank forms as will be necessary to carry the first one into effect:

1. Congregations having money borrowed from the loan fund shall be required to report to the Board annually their financial condition.

2. In case loans are not repaid until six months after maturity, the Board will proceed to collect them, unless it should be made to appear that such action would work the permanent injury of the congregation, in which case they shall require the congregation to pay legal interest upon the loan until paid. Vol. IV, p. 302, 1876.

4. **Securities to be Given by Congregations for Aid Received through the Board of Church Extension.**—*Resolved,* That congregations in need of assistance to build houses for Divine worship, be directed to apply to the Board of Church Extension, receive from them a recommendation to the churches, return an account of the amount collected, and give to the church, through the Board, the necessary bonds, to apply the funds as the directions of the Assembly require. Vol. I, p. 149, 1860.

5. **Loan Fund of the Board of Church Extension.**—*Resolved,* That the Board be and hereby is authorized to establish a "Loan Fund," to be used only in making loans, and to be refunded at such times and in such a manner as may be agreed upon in each case. The Board may make special appeals for donations and be-

quests to this fund, and shall each year so appropriate a part of the contributions, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 277, 1871.

6. **Special Loan Fund.**—*Resolved*, That the Board be authorized to keep as a distinct loan fund any contribution of $5,000 or upwards from one person, family or congregation, the donor having the privilege of determining the name of the fund so created. Vol. IV, p. 170, 1875.

7. **Temporary Loans.**—*Resolved*, That the Board be authorized to receive temporary loans without interest, in order to meet particular emergencies which may arise. Vol. IV, p. 170, 1875.

8. **Contributions to the Board Subject to Annuity.**—*Resolved*, That the Board be authorized to accept contributions subject to annuity, according to the plan proposed in its report, Vol. IV, p. 170, 1875; viz: subject to such annuity and payable in such manner as may be agreed upon; such contributions to be securely invested, and the annuity never to exceed the annual interest received. Vol. IV, p. 210, 1875.

9. **Presbyterial Agents of the Board.**—*Resolved*, That the superintendents of missions be constituted corresponding members of the Board and its agents. Vol. III, p. 277, 1871.

10. **No Special Agents to be Employed by the Board.**—*Resolved*, That henceforth the whole work of aiding congregations in building houses of worship shall be under the control of the Board of Church Extension; that the Assembly will not authorize special agencies for any part of the work, and disapproves of any congregation appealing for help independently of the Board. Vol. III, p. 277, 1871.

11. **The Board may Issue and Guarantee Bonds.**—*Resolved*, 5. That when any congregation may desire to fund its indebtedness in a series of bonds bearing a low rate of interest, so arranged as to distribute the amounts that may become due from time to time, into such sums as the congregation may be able to pay, and may thereby also reduce their interest account, the Board of Church Extension be authorized to allow the issuing of such bonds, and to guarantee their payment; provided the congregation will give to the Board of Church Extension ample security to protect it against any loss. Vol. IV, p. 452, 1877.

12. **Presbyterial Supervision in Building Churches.**—*Resolved*, 6. That Presbyteries be directed to look into the financial condition of every congregation in their bounds proposing to build a house of worship, to advise, and, so far as they can, to prevent the contracting of any debt in building, except to the Board of Church Extension, and that hereafter, in all ordinary cases, it be the *rule* where indebtedness is contracted without the knowledge or consent of the Board, no help is to be granted by the Board. Vol. IV, p. 452, 1877.

13. **Presbyterial Supervision over Extinct Churches.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the Presbyteries be directed to guard carefully the rights and interests of our church in all buildings and other property which may have been occupied or held by congregations now discontinued or withdrawn, and to dispose of all such property as soon as practicable, forwarding the proceeds to the treasurer of the Board. Vol. IV, p. 580, 1878.

XIV. CHURCH MUSIC.

1. **Church Music is under the Control of the Session.**—*Resolved*, 2. That it devolves on Sessions to exercise a controlling supervision over this, as over the other parts of public worship.

3. That in the exercise of their official function in supervising this part of public worship, they be affectionately advised to keep in view the following objects:

I. Let them aim to secure the use of such music as is grave, sweet and solemn in its character, suitable to be employed in the praise of God, and calculated to excite and express the devotional sentiment contained in the particular psalm used at the time.

II. Let them also take into consideration the circumstances of their congregations, and aim so to supervise the service as to promote their peace and edification, and let the people also, regard charitably the rights and wishes of those whose tastes and prejudices and preferences differ from their own.

III. Let them, in all discreetness, be earnest and unwearied in their efforts to foster the development of a musical taste and talent among their people, so that this part of public worship may become, continually, more and more pleasant and profitable to themselves, and more and more commend the inspired psalter to the whole body of the faithful. Vol. II, p. 33, 1864. [See also the Directory for Worship, Chap. II, Art. II, Sec. 4.]

2. **The Use of Repeating Tunes.**—*Resolved*, That while your committee think there is sometimes much bad taste in the use of such tunes, yet they do not feel prepared to say that their use is, in itself, unscriptural and wrong. Vol. II, p. 33, 1864.

3. **Chanting.**—*Resolved*, 1. That our people be recommended to familiarize themselves with the art of chanting.

2. That the chanting of the psalms in the prose version be permitted in the worship of God, where the peace and harmony of the church are not thereby disturbed. Vol. II, p. 35, 1864.

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of three persons, be appointed by this Assembly, to inquire into the practicability, the advantages and disadvantages of chanting, and, if deemed advisable, to prepare a collection of psalms arranged for the use of our Sabbath Schools and congregations, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. III, p. 279, 1871. [This committee presented a report, which was laid on the table. Vol. III, p. 378, 1872.]

Resolved, 2. That a limited number of chants and anthems be inserted [in the psalter] as an appendix. Vol. IV, p. 590, 1878.

4. **Instrumental Church Music.**—The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented, and the Assembly adopted, the following resolution in regard to the memorial from the Presbytery of Philadelphia on instrumental music in the worship of God: *Resolved*, That the petition of the memorialists be not granted. Vol. II, p. 309, 1866.

Resolved, That the conduct of the Session of the First United Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, in refusing to grant permission to the teachers in their Sabbath School to introduce a melodeon, be approved. Vol. II, p. 395, 1867.

Resolved, That the article on instrumental music in the present Directory for Worship is hereby made a special overture, and Presbyteries are directed to vote aye or nay upon it, and report the ayes and nays to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 408, 1867.

[The vote on this overture was: for retaining the article, 385; against retaining it, 157; when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the article on instrumental music now in overture be, and hereby is, approved and adopted. Vol. II, p. 498, 1868.

[A memorial from the Presbytery of Caledonia on the subject of instrumental music was disposed of as follows:]

Resolved, That this Assembly submits to her Presbyteries the following overture: "Shall Sec. 5, Art. II, Chap. III, of the Directory for Worship, be repealed?"

The resolution in this report was lost by a vote of 86 ayes to 74 nays, "a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present" being necessary to transmit any subject in overture to the Presbyteries. Vol. IV, p. 315, 1876.

[Memorials from the Presbyteries of Caledonia and Sidney, asking for the overturing of the article of the Directory for Worship on instrumental music, and remonstrances against the overturing from the Presbyteries of First New York and Neosho, were disposed of as follows:]

Resolved, That the prayer of the memorialists be not granted. [Ayes, 110; noes, 51; not voting, 4. Vol. IV, p. 443, 1877.]

5. **The Psalter.**—WHEREAS, Uniformity in singing the praises of our Zion, in all our congregations, is desirable; and, whereas, experience has proved that a Psalter prepared with appropriate music set to each psalm in the hands of every worshiper, is essential to the accomplishment of this end, and at the same time is an efficient aid to singing by the whole congregation; and, whereas, Rev. R. B. Robertson and Rev. John Gailey have with great care, and we believe with a good measure of success, prepared such a Psalter, and are now ready to put it into the hands of our people;

Resolved, That we cordially commend this book to our people. Vol. III, p. 417, 1872.

Resolved, 1. That the Board [of Publication] take steps to so revise the Psalter as to obviate the above difficulty, [viz: often presenting the music on one side of the leaf and the words on the other.]

2. That a limited number of chants and anthems be inserted as an appendix, and that as regards the musical changes proposed, the

Board be directed to consult the Committee on Selections. Vol. IV, p. 590, 1878.

XV. CLERKS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

1. **The Principal Clerk.**—*Resolved*, That there shall be one principal clerk, to be elected every fourth year. Vol. I, p. 4, 1859.

2. **The Election and Term of Office of the Principal Clerk.**—See rules of order, 3, 5.

3. **The Duties of the Principal Clerk.**—See rules of order, 13, 15.

4. **The Salary of the Principal Clerk.**—[His salary was fixed at $65.00; Vol. I, p. 4, 1859; it was increased to $100.00; Vol. III, p. 129, 1870; allowance was made for traveling and incidental expenses, Vol. II, p. 418, 1867; it was decreased to $75.00, Vol. IV, p. 588, 1878.]

5. **The Second Clerk.**—*Resolved*, That instead of the assistant clerk, who is elected annually and serves only during the sessions of the Assembly, a second permanent clerk be elected for the same term of office with the principal clerk, who in addition to his duties during the Assembly, shall have special charge of statistics, shall take measures to secure full and correct reports from all the Presbyteries, shall prepare the tables for the press, and report to the Assembly all Presbyteries which fail to send full and accurate statistics. Vol. II, p. 511, 1868.

6. **The Election and Term of Office of the Second Clerk.**—See rules of order, 3, 5.

Resolved, That the term of office of the second clerk expire at the close of the business connected with this Assembly. Vol. III, p. 248, 1871.

7. **The Duties of the Second Clerk.**—See rules of order, 14, 15.

8. **The Salary of the Second Clerk.**—[His salary was fixed at $45.00, and traveling expenses, Vol. II, p. 511, 1868; it was increased to $100.00, Vol. III, p. 129, 1870; it was increased to $200.00, Vol. IV, p. 313, 1876; it was fixed at $200.00, Vol. IV, p. 588, 1878.]

9. **The Assistant Clerk.**—*Resolved*, That there shall be one assistant clerk, to be elected annually. Vol. I, p. 4, 1859.

10. **The Election and Term of Office of the Assistant Clerk.**—See rules of order, 4.

11. **The Salary of the Assistant Clerk.**—[At first his services were rendered gratuitously, Vol. I, p. 4, 1859; but his salary was fixed at $25.00, Vol. I, p. 121, 1860; at $30.00, Vol. II, p. 162, 1865; at $20.00, Vol. II, p. 321, 1866; at $30.00, Vol. II, p. 418, 1867; at $25.00, Vol. III, p. 270, 1871; at $25.00, Vol. IV, p. 588, 1878.]

XVI. COMMITTEES.

1. **Standing Committees.**—See rules of order, 18–29.

2. **Permanent Committees.**—I. ON NARRATIVE AND STATE OF RELIGION.—*Resolved*, That the rule requiring the appointment of a committee on the Narrative and State of Religion soon after the opening of each Assembly be suspended; and that such committee shall be appointed before each Assembly rises; and that this committee shall have under consideration, during the entire year, the condition, tendencies and development of the spiritual life of the church, and shall report to the next Assembly; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of the Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of this committee, their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care not later than the first day of May of each year. Vol. III, p. 158, 1870.

2. That the action of the Assembly of 1870 relative to the Committees on Narrative and State of Religion, be hereby rescinded.

3. That the rule defining the duties of the Committee on Narrative and State of Religion be so amended as to require said committee to report to the General Assembly following its appointment; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of the Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of said committee their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later than the first day of May, each year. Vol. III, p. 518, 1873. [It is, however, the custom to appoint two committees on Narrative and State of Religion each year; one a standing committee, to report to the Assembly by which it was appointed; the other a permanent committee, to report to the Assembly following its appointment.]

II. ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—*Resolved*, That a standing committee of five members be appointed, which shall hold its meetings at discretion, and whose duty it shall be to examine Sabbath Schools throughout the church, to collect information in regard to their wants, their mistakes and their successes; a committee with which correspondence may be had by all interested in the work, in regard to whatever is likely to increase its efficacy, and which shall inaugurate measures for the advancement of the cause; as for instance, by suggesting to Presbyteries and Synods the propriety of holding Sabbath School conventions at which the claims of the object shall be presented and discussed. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

3. **Expenses of Permanent Committees.**—*Resolved*, 6. That committees to meet with committees of other churches, and the permanent committees report their expenses to the General Assembly for payment. Vol. IV, p. 453, 1877.

XVII. CONFEDERATION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.

Such Confederation is not for Edification.—*Resolved*, That while cherishing kind and Christian regards for every follower of Christ, and for all evangelical churches, and while holding itself ready to co-operate in any good work with the servants of Christ of

every name, yet this Assembly does not feel that it would be for edification for us to set aside in principle or practice, any of its distinctive features as a portion of the visible church or even seem to affect a union which could not in reality exist. Vol. III, p. 524, 1873.

XVIII. CONSTITUTIONS.

1. **General Constitution of the Boards of the Church.**—See Boards of the church.

2. **Constitutions of the Several Boards of the Church.**—See Church Extension, Education, Foreign Missions, &c.

3. **Religious Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.**—*Resolved*, That we lament that there is not a more distinct and full recognition of the existence of God, and the supremacy of his law, as revealed in the Scriptures, in our national constitution than it contains; that an amendment introducing a becoming recognition of God into, at least the preamble or adopting act of the constitution is much to be desired; and that we instruct our people that it is their duty, as Christian citizens, to favor and co-operate with every legitimate effort that may be made for this end. Vol. I, p. 498, 1863.

Resolved, 1. That in the judgment of this Assembly it is desirable, and a duty that the constitution of the United States be so amended as to recognize the supremacy of God and his law and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in his character as the Governor of the nations.

2. That it be recommended by this Assembly to the ministers and other members of the United Presbyterian Church to co-operate in all proper measures with their fellow citizens for amending the constitution of the United States, so as to secure the accomplishment of this important end. Vol. II, p. 28, 1864.

Resolved, 1. That we cordially sympathize with that movement which has for its object such an amendment of our national constitution, that it shall contain a distinct recognition of the true God; an acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as the Ruler of the nations; and the supreme authority of the sacred Scriptures.

2. That we recommend to all the members of the United Presbyterian Church to co-operate in all proper efforts to secure the accomplishment of this desirable object. Vol. II, p. 493, 1868.

XIX. CORRESPONDING CHURCHES.

1. **Names of Corresponding Churches.**—Associate Reform Synod of the South. Vol. II, p. 487, 1868.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. (O. S.) Vol. I, p. 352, 1862.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. (N. S.) Vol. I, p. 39, 1859.

Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 494, 1863.

General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 494, 1863.

General Synod of the Reformed (Dutch) Church. Vol. II, p. 147, 1865.

General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States of America. Vol. III, p. 111, 1870.

Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church. Vol. II, p. 152, 1865.

Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada. Vol. I, p. 123, 1860.

Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Vol. III, p. 11, 1869.

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces. Vol. III, p. 380, 1872.

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. Vol. III, p. 380, 1872.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Vol. I, p. 32, 1859.

Assembly of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Vol. I, p. 39, 1859.

Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Vol. I, p. 39, 1859.

General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland. Vol. IV, p. 39, 1874.

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England. Vol. I, p. 39, 1859.

Vaudois Churches in Italy. Vol. I, p. 123, 1860.

Church of the Waldenses. Vol. III, p. 514, 1873.

Free Christian Church in Italy. Vol. IV, p. 39, 1874.

2. **Expenses of Delegates to Corresponding Churches.**—*Resolved*, 6. That the delegates of the Assembly to other bodies report their expenses to the General Assembly for payment. Vol. IV, p. 453, 1877.

3. **No More Delegates to Corresponding Churches to be Appointed.**—*Resolved*, 1. That after the present year the appointment of delegates to other churches be suspended, with the exception of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South. Vol. IV, p. 576, 1878.

XX. CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

1. **The Election and Term of Office of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Boards.**—There shall be for each Board a corresponding secretary, elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

2. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretaries.**—See Salary.

3. **The Right of Corresponding Secretaries to Speak in the Assembly.**—The corresponding secretaries shall have the right to speak in the Assembly on all questions relating to the Boards with which they are severally connected. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

4. **Corresponding Secretaries are Ex-officio Members of the Boards.**—There shall be for each Board, a corresponding secretary, * * * who shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Board. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

5. **Overture on the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Home Missions giving his Whole Time to the Work.**—*Resolved*, That the question of the propriety of employing and directing the secretary to devote all his time to the work of his office, be referred to the Presbyteries, with instructions to report on the subject to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 410, 1867.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented a report on the overtures, * * which was adopted. * * On the propriety of employing and directing the secretary of the Board of Home Missions to devote all his time to the work of his office, the following vote is reported by thirty-four Presbyteries: Whole number of votes given, 454; number for employing a permanent secretary, 124; number against, 330. There is thus a decided majority against employing and directing the secretary to devote all his time to his office. Vol. II, p. 498, 1868.

XXI. COVENANTING.

Resolved, 1. That it is the duty of pastors to instruct their people in relation to the nature of the duty of public social covenanting, and the proper seasons for its observance, in common with other religious duties.

2. That pastors and Sessions should carefully observe the dispensations of Divine providence; and if the circumstances of congregations furnish a call, and it is deemed for edification, that they engage in the observance of the duty. Vol. I, p. 170, 1860.

Resolved, That while congregations may consider the dealings of Divine providence with them and the church at large, to determine what is their duty in relation to this matter, this General Assembly does not see that the circumstances in which we are placed furnish a special providential call to the church to engage in the duty of public social covenanting with God at the present time. Vol. I, p. 483, 1863.

Resolved, That the committee be instructed to prepare a brief charter on social covenanting, and that it be embraced in this overture, [on the Directory for Worship.] Vol. II, p. 27, 1864.

XXII. DEACONS.

[A memorial was presented asking such a change in the Book of Government as would allow the election of deaconesses, Vol. IV, p. 153, 1875, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to prepare for the next General Assembly a report on the subject of the deaconship, dealing particularly with the questions as to the perpetuity of the office, the functions pertaining to it, and the persons eligible to it; said committee to furnish by February 1st, 1876, a copy of their report for publication in the periodicals issued peculiarly in the interests of our church. Vol. IV, p. 186, 1875.

[This report, as published in the papers of the church, was brought before the next Assembly, when] after discussion, the further con-

sideration of the whole subject was postponed, and the report of the committee was referred to the next Assembly. Vol. IV, p, 301, 1876.

[At the next Assembly, this report was referred to a special committee, Vol. IV, p 434, 1877, but their report was laid on the table, Vol. IV, p. 455, 1877: At the next Assembly, the resolutions of the original report were adopted.] *Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly, heartily approving of the teaching of its subordinate standards touching the Divine institution and permanent obligation of the office of deacon, and being persuaded also that it is of great importance for the welfare of the church that the teaching of these standards on this subject be reduced to practice, hereby enjoins Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions to adopt measures, with all becoming promptitude, to have deacons appointed in the different congregations of the church, in the manner prescribed in the Book of Government and Discipline.

2. That Presbyteries be, and they hereby are, directed to report to the General Assembly, from time to time, the progress made in carrying into effect, in their respective bounds, the direction just given.

3. That Synods be, and they hereby are, urged to take immediate steps for securing within their respective limits such civil legislation in regard to the tenure of ecclesiastical property, as may be requisite to enable congregations to commit to deacons the charge which now rests upon ordinary trustees.

4. That while the General Assembly does not find in Scripture sufficient authority for the ordination of women to the office of deacon, it is convinced that pious women may, with profit to themselves, and with great advantage to the cause of suffering humanity and of Christ, be organized to act as assistants of the deacon; it being understood, however, that those so devoting themselves and banded together, shall not be formed into sisterhoods living apart from ordinary society, after the manner of certain Popish devotees, or even of some associations, found in certain denominations of the Protestant Church. Vol. IV, p. 567, 1878.

XXIII. DELEGATE FUND.

1. **General Delegate Fund.**—*Resolved*, 1. That a committee be appointed to report to the next Assembly on the propriety of establishing a general delegates' fund.

2. That the committee contemplated in the foregoing resolution, be instructed to report a plan for establishing and managing such fund, should they see fit to report in favor of founding it. Vol. II, p. 29, 1864.

[The report of this committee was referred to a special committee, Vol. II, p. 142, 1865, which reported the following resolutions:]

Resolved, 1. That a delegate fund be established by the Assembly.

2. That a sum be assessed on the several Presbyteries in proportion to the number of communicants under their care, sufficient to allow an average of thirty dollars per delegate to the Assembly,

which, in the judgment of your committee, would amount to six thousand dollars.

3. That Presbyteries be required to deposit their contributions in the hands of the treasurer of the Assembly annually, before the meeting of the Assembly.

4. That the Committee on Credentials be authorized to furnish each commissioner to the Assembly with an order on the treasurer for an amount equal to his necessary expenses by the most direct route to the Assembly, or in proportion to such expense in case of a deficiency in the treasury.

5. That if any Presbytery shall neglect to contribute their proportion, their commissioners shall not be paid, if there be a deficiency in the treasury. Vol. II, p. 169, 1865. [These resolutions were referred to the next Assembly, but it seems they were never acted on.]

The Presbytery of Kansas memorialize the Assembly to institute a delegates' fund for the whole church. Such an arrangement, if it could be carried out, would be very desirable. Justice would indicate that there should be a general fund, so that the more central and stronger Presbyteries might help the weaker ones on the frontier. But previous experience, we think, shows that when the Assembly had this fund in charge, less was secured to meet the expenses of the delegates, than is secured by the present system, of each Presbytery providing for the expenses of its own delegates; therefore,

Resolved, That it would be unwise, at present, to make any change in this particular. Vol. II, p. 495, 1868.

[Certain memorials, asking for the establishment of a general delegate fund, and a sustentation fund, having been presented to the Assembly, the following resolutions were adopted:]

Resolved, 1. That we deem it inexpedient to establish either of these funds at the present time.

2. That a committee of one member from each Synod be appointed, to whom all the papers relating to these subjects shall be referred, and whose duty it shall be to consider these subjects carefully, and report to the next General Assembly; and also to publish their report in the papers of the church, at least three months before the meeting of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 543, 1873. [This committee reported, and their report was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures, which reported with reference to the sustentation fund, but not with reference to the delegate fund. Vol. IV, p. 12, 1874.]

[The subject of a delegate fund came before the Assembly, in connection with the founding of a fund for paying all the expenses of the delegates to the Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That Presbyteries be requested to embrace their opinions on the subject of a general delegates' fund in their reports to the next General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 308, 1876.

Ten Presbyteries have reported favorably to the establishment of a delegate fund; thirty-four have reported against the establishment

of such a fund; eleven have either not acted, or have failed to report their action on this subject.

Resolved, That it is not expedient, at present, for the Assembly to attempt the establishment of a general delegate fund. Vol. IV, p. 436, 1877.

2. **General Fund for Paying all the Expenses of the Delegates to the Assembly.**—*Resolved*, 1. That a committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred for their report at the next Assembly the subject of making provision for the entertainment of commissioners to the Assembly, as brought before this Assembly by the memorial from the Presbytery of Allegheny. Vol. III, p. 422, 1872. [This committee reported to the next Assembly, but no action appears to have been taken. Vol. III, p. 515, 1873.]

The memorial of the Presbytery of Monongahela asks that a general law be enacted requiring Presbyteries to pay the traveling expenses and the bills for boarding and lodging of their respective delegates during their attendance on the sessions of the General Assembly, and authorizing Presbyteries to refuse to pay in cases in which the congregation, with which the minister or elder who is a delegate is connected, is delinquent in contributing to the delegates' fund. The committee admit that there may be injustice and unfairness in the present condition of things as complained of, but they are clearly of the opinion that the course recommended by the resolutions appended to the memorial will not afford a sufficient remedy. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz.:

Resolved, That the resolutions of the memorialists be not adopted. Vol. IV, p. 298, 1875.

XXIV. DIGEST OF THE DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

That however desirable it may be to have a digest of all the acts of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian, the Associate Presbyterian and the United Presbyterian Churches, the pecuniary condition of the church will not warrant us to engage in the publication of such a work at present; therefore,

Resolved, That it be postponed. Vol. I, p. 223, 1861.

As the Board [of Publication], under the direction of the Assembly, is publishing an edition of the Standards of the Church, together with the Rules of Order, we recommend that the Assembly instruct the Board to collect all such enactments of the General Assembly as pertain to the government and discipline of the church, and insert them in such of these books as may be issued hereafter. Vol. III, p. 544, 1873.

The committee on Judiciary, to which was referred the memorials from the Presbyteries of Tennessee and First New York, asking that the principal deliverances of the Assemblies since 1858 be collected and published in suitable form for convenient reference, recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to carry out the design of the memorialists. Vol. IV, p. 299, 1876.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 493, 1877, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the work of your committee to prepare a digest be approved.

2. That it be referred to the same committee, with instruction to make such revision as may be deemed necessary, and to incorporate in it such items from the proceedings of the present Assembly and that of 1878, as is proper to complete the work to that date.

3. That the committee be instructed to publish this work, and with it the Book of Government and Discipline, as soon after the above date as possible. Vol. IV, p. 441, 1877.

XXV. DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and publish a draft of a Directory for Worship, public and family, and that this draft be sent in overture to the Presbyteries, and they be directed to report their judgment thereon, with such amendments as they may deem expedient, to the next Assembly. Vol. I, p. 119, 1860.

[Such a draft was presented to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the Directory for Worship, together with all the reports of the Presbyteries thereon, and any amendments of Presbyteries or individuals, which may be sent in to them up to the first of November next, be committed to the same committee, who shall mature and publish the work; that it is hereby sent down to the Presbyteries in overture, and that they report on the book, aye or no, to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 226, 1861.

[On this overture twenty-four Presbyteries reported, but only eleven reported favorably. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the Directory be referred to a select committee, with instructions to re-write the document.

2. That to this committee be referred all the proposed amendments, either printed or in the reports of Presbyteries.

3. That this select committee be required to report to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 354, 1862.

[This committee not being ready to report, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the committee on the Directory for Worship be directed to report to the next meeting of the Assembly. Vol. I, p. 499, 1863.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the draft of a Directory for Worship be, in general, approved, and that it be hereby overtured to Presbyteries and Sessions, with instructions to report their mind thereon to the next Assembly, particularly stating whether they approve of it so far as to be willing to adopt, yea or nay. Vol. II, p. 27, 1864.

[On this overture, twenty-four Presbyteries reported yeas 111, nays 45. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the amendments in duplicate, suggested by Presbyteries, be placed in the hands of the committee having charge of the work of preparation of the overture, and that said committee be directed to take action on these recommendations, and submit to the Presbyteries the Directory as amended, for approval or disapproval.

2. That said committee be directed to publish said overture that it may be distributed through the church by the first of September.

4. That Presbyteries are hereby directed to report to the next General Assembly the number of votes, yea or nay, on said overture. Vol. II, p. 160, 1865.

[On this overture thirty-two Presbyteries reported the following vote: ayes, 299; nays, 72. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the draft of the Directory for Worship be recommitted to the committee appointed to prepare it, with instruction to re-write the book, with reference to the amendments that have been suggested by the Presbyteries and with special view to making it more unique and systematic; and that they publish the result of their labors not later than September 1st, 1866, and that the new draft be, and hereby is overtured to the Presbyteries, in order that they may vote ay or no upon it, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 295, 1866.

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Directory for Worship, overtured by the last General Assembly, has received a large majority of the votes of the church, as reported to the Assembly, it is hereby declared to be of authority in the church until another shall have been adopted. Vol. II. p. 301, 1866.

[On account of some dissatisfaction with the Directory, especially with the article on instrumental music, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That a committee be appointed with instructions to re-write the Directory for Worship with reference to the amendments suggested by Presbyteries, having special reference to greater uniformity and system in the work, and that they publish the result of their labors not later than February 1st, 1868, and that the new draft be, and it hereby is overtured to the Presbyteries in order that they may vote aye or nay upon it, and report the ayes and nays to the next General Assembly.

2. That the article on instrumental music in the present Directory for Worship is hereby made a special overture, and Presbyteries are directed to vote aye or nay upon it, and report the ayes and nays to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 408, 1867.

[On this overture the vote stood: Ayes, 229; nays, 58; when the Directory for Worship was declared by the Assembly to be constitutionally adopted. Vol. II, p. 512, 1868.]

[For the Directory for Worship, see Digest, p. 56.]

XXVI. EDUCATION, BOARD OF.

1. **Charter of the Board of Education.**—[Authorized by the General Assembly, Vol. I, p. 484, 1863, Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874, granted under a general law of the State of Illinois, Nov. 1, 1876, and approved by the Assembly, Vol, IV, p. 449, 1877.]

I. PETITION OF THE BOARD FOR INCORPORATION.—State of Illinois, Warren County, *ss.*—We, the undersigned, being citizens of the United States, desiring to form an association not for pecuniary profit, pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled, "An Act concerning corporations," approved April 18th, 1872, do hereby certify that the following is the true statement of the name or title by which said association shall be known in law, the particular business and object for which it is formed, the number of its managers, and the names of the same selected for the first year of its existence, viz.:

I. NAME OR TITLE.—The Board of Education of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

II. PARTICULAR BUSINESS AND OBJECT. 1. To cherish and diffuse an educational spirit throughout the church.

2. To co-operate with the Presbyteries, Synods and General Assembly of the said United Presbyterian Church of North America in the establishment of institutions of learning.

3. To assist in the education of pious and promising young men in their literary and theological education for the ministry.

4. To concert and execute such measures as may be judged proper for increasing the funds of the Board, and promoting the general cause.

III. NUMBER OF MANAGERS.—Five.

IV. NAMES OF MANAGERS SELECTED FOR THE FIRST YEAR.—John Scott, David A. Wallace, W. T. Campbell, Ed. F. Reid and G. D. Henderson. [This petition was acknowledged by Wm. Marshall, Esq., notary public of Warren county, State of Illinois, October 31st, 1876.]

II. CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.—State of Illinois, Department of State, Geo. H. Harlow, Secretary of State. To all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting:—Whereas, a certificate, duly signed and acknowledged, having been filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the first day of November, A. D. 1876, for the organization of the Board of Education of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, under and in accordance with the provisions of "An Act concerning corporations," approved April 18th, 1872, and in force, July 1st, 1872, and "An Act to revise the law in relation to universities, colleges, academies and other institutions of learning," approved March 24th, 1874, and in force July 1st, 1874, a copy of which certificate is hereto attached; now, therefore, I, George H. Harlow, secretary of State, of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said, "the Board of Education of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," is a legally organized corporation under the laws of this State.

In testimony whereof I hereby set my hand and cause to be affixed the great seal of State.

Done at the city of Springfield this first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, and

of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and first.

GEORGE H. HARLOW,
Secretary of State.

[The foregoing instruments of writing were recorded in the office of the recorder of deeds for the county of Warren and State of Illinois, on November 4th, 1876, in Vol. 61, of deeds, page 565.]

III. ACTION OF THE BOARD WITH REFERENCE TO THIS ACT OF INCORPORATION.—Whereas, the United Presbyterian General Assembly of 1874 directed her Boards, which had not already been incorporated to become incorporated under the laws of the State where such Board is located, and whereas members of this Board have secured its incorporation under the laws of this State, therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the legal document of incorporation be copied into and made a part of the records of this Board.

2. That this Board thus becoming only a body corporate or politic, but not changed in its relations to the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, hereby recognizes as binding on it the rules and regulations which have been given it by the said General Assembly; also, its own actions and obligations, assumed whilst in a non-corporate state.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Education.**—[A constitution for the Board of Education was adopted, Vol. I, p. 49, 1859, but it was superseded by the general constitution of the Boards, and the following new constitution:]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Education of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in Monmouth, Illinois.

2. It shall be the object and duty of this Board to cherish and diffuse an educational spirit throughout the church; to co-operate with Presbyteries, and Synods, and the Assembly, in the establishment of institutions of learning; and to assist in the education of pious and promising young men for the ministry. It shall have power to devise and carry out such measures as may be proper for the promotion of the cause entrusted to its care. Vol. IV, p. 25, 1874.

3. **Regulations of the Board of Education.**—[The regulations of the Board of Education were approved by the Assembly, Vol. I, p. 222, 1861, and published, Vol. I, p. 248, 1861, and Vol. II, p. 145, 1865. They are as follows:]

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.—The Board holds four regular meetings annually, viz.: On the first Tuesdays of August, November, February and May. Special meetings are held when necessary. The place of meeting is the First United Presbyterian Church, Monmouth, Illinois.

GRANTS OF MONEY.—Pecuniary aid shall be granted young men only in accordance with the following principles:

1. All applications from theological students made at any meeting shall be first acted on and then applications from literary students.

2. Testimonials shall certify that the applicant is under the care of some Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church, that he intends to enter the ministry, that he possesses hopeful piety, that his talents are such as to qualify him for usefulness in the ministry, and that he needs the sum asked. Such testimonials shall be given by the order of the Presbytery to which the applicant belongs, and be signed by the moderator and clerk. Under extraordinary circumstances, testimonials of three members of the Presbytery, of the above tenor, may be accepted; but such testimonials shall in all cases be substituted by regular Presbyterial testimonials as soon as practicable. New testimonials shall be furnished every year that aid is granted.

3. Grants exceeding one hundred dollars per annum shall not be made to any one individual, nor be continued more than four years, beginning with the senior year in college.

4. Grants shall be due and payable to theological students in three installments, viz.: One-third on the first of September, one-third on the first of December and one-third on the first of March; and to literary students in four installments, one-fourth on each of the days mentioned, and one-fourth on the first of June.

5. Beneficiaries shall give obligations of the following tenor: "I do agree that if I do not in due course of time enter the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church, or, having entered it, do not continue in the same, the sum above mentioned shall then become due and payable at the pleasure of the Board, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from date."

6. No grant shall be made except by the Board at a regular or special meeting. The regular time for acting on applications shall be the August meeting, but grants may be made at any regular or special meeting duly called.

7. While in all ordinary cases the Presbyteries must, in the very nature of the case, be responsible for the character of the beneficiaries of the Board, and while Presbyteries are urgently solicited to be careful to recommend only such young men as have the prescribed qualifications; yet the Board shall not knowingly furnish aid to any young man who lacks the prescribed qualifications, even though he be recommended by a Presbytery.

In all ordinary cases, the Board should require its beneficiaries to attend some institution of learning, instead of pursuing their studies privately; yet the Assembly judges that in this matter something should be left to the discretion of the Board.

Especial attention is invited to the following directions:

1. Let young men desiring aid make application directly to the Presbytery for a certificate; if it be impracticable to lay the matter before the Presbytery in season, let a certificate be obtained from three members, and then, at the next meeting of the Presbytery, let a regular certificate be obtained.

2. Let the certificate be forwarded directly to the corresponding secretary of the Board, accompanied by a statement of the following facts: 1. The name in full of the beneficiary. 2. His post-office,

town, county and State. 3. His standing as a student; if literary, of what class; if theological, of what year. 4. The college or seminary he purposes attending.

3. Let the applications be forwarded in time to be laid before the Board at their meeting in August, if possible.

4. Let Presbyteries be careful to certify all that is required by the constitution of the Board. No grants can be made without certificates. Applications made in regular form to the Board will, in all cases, receive prompt attention. Many vexations and unnecessary delays grow out of inattention to the regulations of the Assembly, which the Board cannot disregard.

5. Presbyteries should recommend no one as a beneficiary who does not need and deserve assistance. Vol. II, p. 145, 1865.

[These regulations were amended as follows:]

Resolved, 3. That the third rule adopted by the General Assembly of 1861 be changed so as to read thus: "The maximum of contributions to any one student be $1,000, and that it be left to the Presbytery and the Board to determine during what time this money shall be expended, and that contributions to any one student for one year shall not exceed $200." Vol. II, p. 145, 1865.

Resolved, 3. That Articles III and IV of the By-Laws, as amended by the Board, be published with the minutes of this Assembly.

ARTICLE III.—GRANTS OF MONEY.—1. Other things being equal, application in behalf of students, shall have preference according to their advancement in their course of study.

2. The General Assembly has ordered the use of three series of questions, viz.: The first to be answered by the Presbytery to which the applicant belongs; the second by his instructors, literary or theological; and the third by himself. The one answered by the applicant should be sent to his Presbytery and retained by it; the other two should be sent to the secretary of the Board.

3. When a young man who has already been received as a beneficiary is recommended by his Presbytery for renewed assistance, an official statement to the effect that the applicant is recommended as before will be sufficient. This shall be done every year that aid is granted.

4. The Assembly forbids that grants exceeding two hundred dollars per annum shall be made to any one individual. Owing to scarcity of funds, the Board does not, under any ordinary circumstances, grant more than one hundred and fifty dollars per annum, except that seniors in colleges may receive twenty-five dollars extra, to be paid in connection with the last installment. No one shall receive more than one thousand dollars in the aggregate.

5. Grants shall be due and payable to theological students, &c. See above rule 4.

6. Beneficiaries shall give obligations of the following tenor: "I have received from the Board of Education of the United Presbyterian Church of North America —— dollars; and I hereby agree, that if I do not in due course of time enter the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church, or do at any time voluntarily abandon

the same, the sum above mentioned shall then become due and payable at the pleasure of the Board, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from date."

7. While in all ordinary cases the Presbyteries must in the very nature of the case, &c. See above rule 7.

ARTICLE IV.—OF WARRANTS, NOTES, &C.—1. At each quarterly meeting, a warrant of the treasurer, signed by the president and secretary, authorizing him to pay to parties therein named, the sums set opposite to their names, shall be made out.

2. The treasurer shall pay the sums named in the warrants, as therein directed, and take notes from beneficiaries, and receipts from all other persons to whom money may be paid. The appropriations to beneficiaries, together with notes ready for signature, shall be remitted to the presiding officers of the institutions at which they may be in attendance, who are expected to pay out the same, secure the signatures of beneficiaries to the notes, and return the same to the treasurer without unnecessary delay. The warrants of the Board, together with the receipts and notes, shall constitute the vouchers of the treasurer.

3. The treasurer shall submit to the Board at each quarterly meeting, a statement of the receipts from the several Presbyteries during the quarter immediately preceding, and of the balance in the treasury, subject to the order of the Board.

4. At each May meeting, an auditing committee shall be appointed, who shall serve for one year. The treasurer, at the close of each quarter, counting from May first, shall submit his books and vouchers for the quarter then closing, to the auditing committee, who shall examine and report on the same to the Board at its next quarterly meeting.

5. At the close of the financial year, the treasurer shall submit his annual report to the General Assembly to the same committee, who shall return the same with their certificate to the Board at its May meeting.

6. The treasurer shall publish, at the close of each quarter, in the *United Presbyterian* and *Christian Instructor*, a detailed statement of his receipts during the quarter preceding. Vol. III, p. 540, 1873.

4. **Married Beneficiaries.**—*Resolved*, That in case a beneficiary enters the marriage relation, aid may be continued or not, at the discretion of the Board. Vol. III, p. 148, 1870.

Resolved, That the Board be directed to make no discrimination among students on account of their marital relations, unless these increase the demands upon the Board. Vol. III, p. 418, 1872.

5. **Competitive Examination of Beneficiaries.**—*Resolved*, That to secure the end sought, the Board is directed to provide and carry into effect, at as early a period as possible, a scheme of competitive examinations. Vol. IV, p. 45, 1874.

6. **Beneficiaries to be Reported.**—*Resolved*, That they be directed to report every year to the General Assembly the names of the students under their care, for the information of the Assembly but not to be published in the minutes. Vol. IV, p. 317, 1876.

XXVII. ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

1. **Pastors should Instruct their Congregations in this Duty.**—*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the pastor to instruct the people of his charge, in relation to the responsibility which rests upon them in the exercise of the elective franchise, as well as with regard to all other obligations which rest upon them as Christians and as citizens, as circumstances may require. Vol. I, p. 480, 1863.

2. **The Elective Franchise should be Extended to the Colored Race.**—1. As this church has deemed it a part of her mission in times past to "open her mouth for the dumb," she should labor still to set the black man right in view of all his wrongs.

2. That class legislation is a curse to any country, and we condemn as anti-Christian the silly notion that the circumstance of color should, to any extent or in any sense, limit or enlarge the application of the sacred principles of human liberty.

3. While we deem it alike indispensable to the safety and happiness both of blacks and whites to fully enfranchise the colored race, especially in view of his loyalty and acts of valor done in our defence, it becomes a claim of clearest moral justice.

4. From what we have seen and know of prejudice against the colored race, we have reason to expect to this specific point of reformation determined and persevering opposition; and hence that our people be carefully warned to take no part in such opposition, "lest haply they be found fighting against God."

5. Believing that the circumstances of our country are such as are contemplated in our constitution, which is as follows, Chap. XXXI, Sec. 5: "Synods and councils are to handle or conclude nothing but that which is ecclesiastical, and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs, which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of humble petition, in cases extraordinary," we recommend the people under our care to petition Congress for such legislation as shall secure, according to the preceding declarations, the rights of the colored race. Vol. II, p. 166, 1865. [A dissent, with reasons, was entered against this action of the Assembly. Vol. II, p. 167, 1865.]

XXVIII. EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

The World's Evangelical Alliance.—*Resolved*, That while the Divine direction and blessing are devoutly desired for the Alliance, in common with every movement that has for its end the promotion of the well-being of men and the glory of God; yet the General Assembly does not deem it expedient or important that it make any appointment of delegates or representatives to attend it. Vol. III, p. 525, 1873.

XXIX. FINANCIAL AGENTS.

1. **Election of Financial Agents.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the delegates from each Presbytery shall nominate, and the Assembly annually appoint, a member of each Presbytery financial agent for the same. Vol. I, p. 117, 1860.

Resolved, That the clerks of Presbyteries be instructed to furnish

the principal clerk, previously to the meeting of the Assembly, with a list of nominations for financial agents and superintendents of missions, with their post-office address, and that the clerk be instructed to report this list to the General Assembly for confirmation. Vol. III, p. 28, 1869.

2. **Duties of Financial Agents.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the delegates from each Presbytery shall nominate, and the Assembly annually appoint, a member of each Presbytery financial agent for the same, who shall be the medium of correspondence between the Boards and the Presbyteries, and who shall be charged with the special duty of seeing to it that the will of the Assembly is fully carried out in each Presbytery. Vol. I, p. 117, 1860.

Resolved, 2. * * * That financial agents be prompt in reporting to their Presbyteries and publishing in the papers, the contributions they have received, as well as from what congregations, and that they forward the funds on hand to the various treasurers at least quarterly, and oftener, if possible; and that Presbyteries see to it that these agents perform their duties promptly, and also that non-contributing congregations be called to account for their neglect, and that pastors, Sessions and people be urged to meet their obligations to sustain our benevolent work at home and abroad. Vol. IV, p. 320, 1876.

It is submitted, that the financial agent is the Assembly's officer, and in order to define the duties of the position, the following is recommended:

1. To seek the counsel and co-operation of Presbyteries, by laying before them the work to be done, and securing, as far as possible, such wise and judicious action as will enlist the Sessions and people in the work.

2. To keep before Sessions and people, by correspondence and personal intercourse, the workings and wants of the Boards.

3. To endeavor to have each congregation adopt some efficient plan for raising the funds of the church, recognizing the fact, that pastors and Sessions are divinely constituted agencies to do this work in each congregation.

4. To call attention of Sessions to any remissness on the part of any congregation in their contribution to any of the funds.

5. To report to each regular meeting of Presbytery the condition of the financial work in its several congregations.

6. To secure general conferences on the work of the church in the hands of the several Boards.

7. To have their accounts audited by the Presbyteries each year. Vol. IV, p. 452, 1877.

3. **Financial Agents to Apportion the Funds Among the Congregations.**—*Resolved*, That the financial agents be directed at an early day to apportion the sum required from their Presbyteries among the congregations, settled and vacant, and urge upon them the great importance of complying with the above requisitions. Vol. II, p. 28, 1864.

4. **All Contributions to be Made Through the Financial Agents.**—*Resolved*, That congregations or individuals, forwarding

subscriptions to the various Boards, should do so through the financial agents of their respective Presbyteries, and that the treasurers of such Boards acknowledge the same as received from such Presbyteries. Vol. II, p. 162, 1865.

Resolved, 10. That all the contributions of churches, Sabbath Schools and societies shall be made through the financial agents of Presbyteries. Vol. III, p. 535, 1873.

Resolved, 6. That congregations be instructed to forward their contributions through the financial agents of the Presbyteries, and that the financial agents be instructed to report, when requested by the Board to do so, the amount contributed by each congregation. Vol. IV, p. 302, 1873.

5. **Financial Agents to Acknowledge the Moneys Received by Them.**—*Resolved*, That it be the duty of the financial agents to acknowledge such subscriptions in the local papers of the church. Vol. II, p, 162, 1865.

Resolved, 3. * * * * That financial agents be directed to acknowledge, by publishing in detail all moneys received by them, and that it be no part of the duty of the general treasurers to publish receipts of funds. Vol. III, p. 416, 1872.

Resolved, 2. * * * * That financial agents be prompt in reporting to their Presbyteries, and publishing in the papers, the contributions they have received, as well as from what congregations. Vol. IV, p. 320, 1876.

6. **Blanks for Financial Agents.**—*Resolved*, 9. That blank forms be prepared by the Assembly for the use of financial agents in remitting moneys to the different treasurers of the Boards and other funds of the church, with directions as to the manner of using the same. Vol. III, p. 535, 1873.

7. **A General Financial Agent for the Whole Church.**—*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the subject of appointing a general treasurer and financial agent for the entire church, and that they recommend a suitable person for this office, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 418, 1867. [This committee presented a report, recommending the appointment of a general financial agent. This report was before several Assemblies, when it was overtured and rejected by the following vote: ayes, 208; nays, 245; not voting, 21. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.]

[Resolutions for the appointment of a general financial agent were introduced into the Assembly of 1875, Vol. IV, p. 189, and were referred to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the appointment of a general financial agent, as contemplated in the paper assigned to us, be postponed for the present. Vol. IV, p. 320, 1876.

XXX. FOREIGN MISSIONS, BOARD OF.

1. **Charter of the Board of Foreign Missions.**—[Granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, approved by the Governor,

April 12, 1866, and accepted by the General Assembly, Vol. II, p. 302, 1866.]

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America have a Board of Foreign Missions composed of ministers and laymen, members of the said church, the design of which is the establishing and conducting Christian missions among the unevangelized or pagan nations, and the general diffusion of Christianity; and,

WHEREAS, The aforesaid Board of Foreign Missions labors under serious disadvantages as to receiving donations and bequests, and as to the management of funds entrusted to them for the purposes designated in their constitution, and in accordance with the benevolent intentions of those from whom such bequests and donations are received; therefore,

SECTION 1, Be it enacted, &c., That James Prestley, John B. Dales, Francis Church, Thomas H. Hanna, Samuel C. Huey, Wm. Getty, Thomas Stinson and William W. Barr, citizens of the United States, and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and their successors, are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate, which shall henceforth be known by the name of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, and as such shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued in all courts of record and elsewhere, and to purchase and receive, take and hold to them and their successors forever, lands, tenements, hereditaments, money, goods and chattels, and all kinds of estate which may be devised, bequeathed or given to them, and the same to sell, alien, demise and convey, also to make and use a common seal, and the same to alter and renew at their pleasure, and also to make such rules, by-laws and ordinances as may be needful for the government of the said corporation, and not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. *Provided always*, that the clear and annual income of the real and personal estate held by this corporation shall not at any time exceed the sum of twenty thousand dollars. The corporation or persons above named shall hold their offices for three years from the date of this act, and until their successors are duly qualified to take their places, who shall be chosen at such times and in such way and manner as shall be prescribed by the said General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. The said Board hereby incorporated and their successors shall be subject to the direction of said General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, have full power to manage the funds and property committed to their care in such manner as shall be most advantageous, not being contrary to law.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Foreign Missions.**—[A constitution for the Board of Foreign Missions was adopted, Vol. I, p. 45, 1859, but it was superseded by the general constitution of the Boards, and the following new constitution:]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Philadelphia.

2. To this Board shall be entrusted, under the direction and control of the Assembly, the superintendence of the Foreign Missionary operations of the church. To this Board shall belong the duty, though not the exclusive right, of nominating to the Assembly, missionaries and agents, and of designating fields of labor. They shall also receive reports of the corresponding secretary, and give him needful direction, prepare, for the Assembly, estimates of all appropriations and expenditures of money, and take such action as may be necessary to secure the efficient and successful prosecution of the work committed to their care. Vol. IV, p. 23, 1874.

3. **Regulations of the Board of Foreign Missions.**—[Approved by the General Assembly, Vol. I, p. 227, 1861.]

1. Every application to be recommended to the General Assembly, for an appointment to be a missionary in the foreign field, shall be given in to the Board at the earliest time convenient, that thus there may be an opportunity for making all proper inquiries in regard to it. This application shall be presented in writing, briefly stating the applicant's age, habits, education, previous employment, the length of time he has been a professor of religion, his motives and reasons for desiring to engage in the missionary service, the field of labor he prefers, the state of his health, his purpose or position in reference to marriage, and the probabilities of his permanent continuance in the mission work if appointed and sent out.

2. No student, licentiate or minister shall be recommended by this Board for an appointment who cannot give written testimonials from persons who have known him, in reference to his character and supposed fitness for the missionary service, and who has not also been specially recommended as possessing suitable qualifications by the Presbytery to which he belongs. It is also very desirable, if at all possible, that the Board shall have a personal interview or acquaintance with him.

3. In no case shall the Board be held liable for debts of the candidate, contracted previously to his appointment, nor for any after it, unless they were authorized by the Board; and while his wishes in regard to his field of labor are to be carefully consulted, he is to hold himself at the direction of the Board, as the necessities of the whole field, or the emergencies of any particular part of it may require.

4. After his appointment the candidate is to keep the Board informed of his Post Office address, and while the whole matter of his ordination is left to the Presbytery, yet it is recommended that it be attended to at an early day, so that there may be no distraction or delay in his departure on account of it—and also that it be at such time and place, if circumstances will allow, as will best subserve the interests of the cause of missions.

5. Every married missionary shall be allowed at least $400, from the mission funds for an outfit, and every unmarried missionary $200, together with all the expenses in each case, of traveling under the direction of the Board, and of the passage from their home to the field of labor. The regular salary shall commence with the day of arriving in the field of labor.

6. In all cases, apparatus, surgical instruments, books and durable property of any kind, which have been purchased by special grants of the Board, for any mission, shall be used and returned to the mission, as belonging to it, under the direction of the Board.

7. On reaching the field of labor, the missionary shall see that communications from himself or from the mission are forwarded to the Board once in three months. In no case shall he engage in compensatory services outside of the regular mission work, without the consent of his brethren in the mission, subject to the review of the Board, and in case he is alone, he shall not so engage without the consent of the Board.

8. It is understood that in all ordinary and minor matters, the missionaries of the foreign stations shall have much discretionary power—but inasmuch as even from the best of motives and by the best of men, works might be projected and entered on, which the Board would not have the means of sustaining—which neither it nor the church at large would approve—and which might result in serious difficulties, and perhaps disasters; it is hereby declared that no new mission shall be formed, no new station shall be taken up, no real estate shall be purchased at the expense of the Board, no money belonging to the Board shall be loaned or invested, and no new and heavy expenses shall be incurred, without the knowledge and consent of the Board.

9. If any missionary shall have a desire or a necessity, on account of ill health, or from any other cause, to return to this country, he shall in all cases that are practicable, request permission from the Board, the request being accompanied by a statement of the reasons for it, and by the opinion also of the members of the mission in regard to it. If the time and urgency of the case render it impracticable for him to obtain this permission, he must then obtain the consent of his brethren in the mission, and this consent shall be subject to the review of the Board.

10. In all cases, unless otherwise expressly provided for, the salary of the missionary shall cease with his leaving his field—his traveling expenses shall be defrayed by the Board—and on his arrival in this country, his salary may be resumed, if it is judged best by the Board, at half the previous rate for six months or one year, when if he shall not return to his field, it shall entirely cease. All his traveling expenses under the direction of the Board, after his return, shall be paid out of the treasury of the Board.

11. Every mission shall have, if practicable, a treasurer or financial agent, who shall keep the accounts, make out for the Board an annual report of the expenses, receipts, estimates, and an inventory of the property of the mission, receive the appropriations of the Board and distribute them to the members of the mission, according to the rates or salaries fixed by the Board. The financial year of every missionary shall begin with the first of January, and the financial report, estimates, &c., &c., shall be forwarded to the Board so as to be received by the first of April in each year. No missionary shall draw any draft on the treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Fund without being authorized by the Board.

12. An annual report shall be prepared in each mission, and sent to the Board by the first of April, to be incorporated with the annual report of the Board to the General Assembly.

4. **Outfits and Salaries of Foreign Missionaries.**—OUTFITS.—For a married missionary, $500; for a single man, $300; for an unmarried female, $200. In each case these outfits will be paid in currency. No outfit shall be allowed on leaving or returning to the field.

SALARIES.—Missionaries with families, in India and Egypt, shall be paid $1,200 each, and in Syria and China, $1,000 each. In places where the Board have no missionary residences a fair allowance for house-rent shall be put in the annual estimate of expenses to be recommended by the mission, and subject to the approval of the Board.

Single missionaries shall receive $800 each, except in Syria and China, where the salary of each shall be $700. Each unmarried female missionary shall be paid $500 in India and Egypt, and $450 in Syria and China, including house-rent.

ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN.—Each child under ten years of age shall be allowed five per cent. of the salary of the missionary, and over ten years of age and under eighteen, ten per cent. Vol. IV, p. 51, 1874.

Resolved, 2. That the Assembly approve the action of the Board taken last July, regarding the salaries of the missionaries in Alexandria and Cairo stations, viz.: $1,400 to male missionaries with families, and $550 to female missionaries, and that the salaries of the missionaries in this station and in all the missions of the foreign field be the same as last year. Vol. IV, p. 180, 1875.

5. **Return of Foreign Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 2. That in the judgment of this Assembly missionaries laboring in foreign lands, and especially in warm climates should return to their native land at intervals of about five years, to invigorate their health, and thus prolong their lives and usefulness, and otherwise advance the mission work. Vol. II, p. 157, 1865.

Resolved, 8. That the action of the Assembly of 1865, expressing to all our foreign missionaries the liberty to return home every five years be, according to the recommendation of the Board, reconsidered. Vol. II, p. 416, 1867.

6. **Salaries of Returned Foreign Missionaries.**—See regulation 10

Resolved, 10. That in case of continued disability, the Board be authorized to continue to returned missionaries the usual salary given during the first six months after their return, and that they be employed as the Board may direct and their health permit in advancing the cause of foreign missions. Vol. II, p. 302, 1866.

Resolved, 7. That in all ordinary cases the Board be directed to pay our foreign missionaries at the rate of half salary in gold, while necessarily absent from their field of labor. Vol. II, p. 498, 1868.

Resolved, 14. That the action of the Assembly in 1866 and 1868, in reference to the pay of returned missionaries be rescinded, and

that rule 10 in general rules and recommendations be amended by striking out the words "six months or one year" and inserting in their stead "not more than two years." Vol. III, p. 19, 1869.

Resolved, [by the Board], That in order to equalize the salaries of the missionaries from the several stations while temporarily in this country, the salaries of missionaries with families, *i. e.*, with wife, or wife and children, be fixed at the rate of $1,000 a year in currency; of single male missionaries at $400; and of single female missionaries at $250; provided that these allowances shall not extend beyond one year, except at the discretion of the Board. Vol. IV, p. 327, 1876.

Resolved, 5. That the salaries to be paid missionaries temporarily absent from their mission fields, and the children sent to this country, agreed upon by the Board, be approved, except that single male missionaries shall receive $500 instead of $400, and female missionaries shall receive $350 instead of $250. Vol. IV, p. 305, 1876.

7. **Allowance to the Widows of Foreign Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 12. That the Board of Foreign Missions be instructed to pay to the widows of missionaries who have died, or may die, in the service of the Board, the sum of $20 per month during their widowhood. Vol. II, p. 157, 1865.

8. **Allowance to the Children of Foreign Missionaries Sent to this Country.**—*Resolved*, 13. That the sum of $100 be paid annually for the support of each of the children of our missionaries who have been returned to this country to obtain an education, and that they be provided with tuition free in any college under the care of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. III, p. 19, 1869.

Resolved, [by the Board], That the allowances for children of missionaries sent to this country for their health, or to be educated, be fixed uniformly at $150 in currency a year for each child, provided that this allowance shall not be made for children who are over eighteen years of age, and that it shall in all cases cease when the parents are in this country, the salary for parents and children being in that case provided for. Vol. IV, p. 327, 1876. [This action of the Board was approved by the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 305, 1876.]

9. **The Training of Native Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 8. That in view of the comparatively short life of American missionaries in heathen countries, and the frequent necessity of returning home to recruit their strength; and in view of the length of time and the great labor necessary to acquire the use of the difficult languages of most heathen countries; and in view of the great disadvantage which a foreigner must always experience in commanding the popular mind of any people when he has to address them as a foreigner; and in view of the vastly greater expense of sustaining the work by exporting the laborers at such disadvantages, and at such great distances from the bases of supply and management, we recommend to our Board that the idea should be constantly kept in view, that the present system of conducting foreign missions should be regarded as introductory to the more permanent and efficient system by which the work will be mainly carried forward by native

teachers and missionaries from home sources of support; therefore, we recommend to the Board to give special attention to the raising up of native teachers and ministers, and thus laying deeply and broadly such foundations as may secure efficient native laborers, and in due time make the respective institutions self-sustaining. Vol. II, p. 498, 1868.

On the subject of training a native ministry, referred by the Board to the Assembly, the committee on Foreign Missions recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, 1. That it is the judgment of this Assembly that this is necessary to the final success of the missionary cause, and that they hereby instruct all their missionaries in the foreign field to give special attention to this part of the work; and that they also direct the Board to encourage and co-operate with missionaries in carrying out this instruction; assuring both the Board and missionaries of the sympathy and hearty co-operation of the Assembly.

2. That this Assembly heartily approves of the action of our missionaries in Egypt, in establishing and conducting a literary and theological institute for this purpose, and should the Board, on consultation with the Presbytery of Egypt, deem it necessary to the wants of the mission to establish an additional institute, they are instructed to do so, the location and management to be under the direction of the Presbytery. The Assembly also directs the Board, if on consultation with the brethren in Syria they deem it necessary, to establish a similar institute in Damascus, or wherever they may deem it best, its management to be under the direction of the mission.

3. That the Board be directed when they shall have ascertained what means are necessary in books, apparatus or money, and shall have secured competent person or persons to take charge of these institutions, then to bring the whole matter before the church, and make a special appeal to our people, urging the great importance of this work, and its demands upon their liberality and their prayers.

This direction is to be understood as extending to all our foreign missions. Vol. III, p. 413, 1872.

Resolved, 7. That the Assembly approves the establishing of a training college and mission seminary at Osiout, and that $2,500 be devoted to the building fund of the college, out of the appropriation for Egypt for this year. Vol. IV, p. 35, 1874.

Resolved, 11. That the Assembly heartily approves of the proposal to establish a theological seminary in India for the training of a native ministry, and that the Presbytery of Sealkote be encouraged to establish the same as soon as in their judgment it may be deemed proper, and the money at their disposal will warrant; but in the present state of the treasury of the Board, it is not deemed advisable to appoint any additional laborers for that field, or become responsible for any expense additional to the present estimates. Vol. IV, p. 305, 1876.

10. **China Mission.**—[On memorials from the Synod of Illinois and from the Presbytery of Frankfort, asking for the consolidation of the foreign missions of the church, it was]

Resolved, 3. That the Board be directed to dispose of our mission property in Canton, China, and that the proceeds be expended in the establishment of a Chinese mission on the Pacific coast, and that brother Nevin be transferred to the new mission. Vol. IV, p. 444, 1877.

Resolved, 9. That the mission to the Chinese at Los Angeles be transferred from the care of the Board of Foreign Missions to the Presbytery of San Francisco, subject to the control of the Assembly, so soon as said Presbytery secure an act of incorporation, and that the Presbytery be required to report annually to the General Assembly specially as to this mission.

10. That the money received from the sale of the mission property in China be invested by the Presbytery of San Francisco, when incorporated, under the direction of the Trustees of the General Assembly, for the exclusive use and benefit of the mission to the Chinese, no part of the principal to be used except for needed permanent buildings for the use of the mission, and that the treasurer of the Presbytery be required to give bonds to the Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

11. That Rev. J. C. Nevin be directed to invest the funds arising from the sale of the China mission buildings in such a way as the Board of Foreign Missions may direct, until the Presbytery of San Francisco becomes a corporate body and fully prepared to take charge of said funds. Vol. IV, p. 577, 1878.

11. **Syria Mission.**—[On memorials from the Synod of Illinois and from the Presbytery of Frankfort, asking for the consolidation of the foreign missions of the church, it was]

Resolved, 4. That the Board is hereby instructed to make, as soon as practicable, such arrangement with the Irish Presbyterian Church as shall relieve us of all responsibility with regard to the Syrian mission. Vol. IV, p. 444, 1877.

Resolved, 7. That the Board be, and hereby is, directed to place the proceeds resulting from the sale of the Bludan property in Syria, together with the stock of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburgh, to the credit of the investment fund. Vol. IV, p. 577, 1878.

12. **Women's Foreign Missionary Societies.**—*Resolved*, 10. That it is the judgment of this General Assembly that the great demand for female laborers, in view of the condition of their sex in foreign lands, requires that the women of the United Presbyterian Church take a deeper interest in this important department of the foreign work, and exert themselves in order to sustain the female missionaries now in the field, and to increase the number and secure the support of additional female laborers. Vol. III, p. 407, 1872.

Resolved, 9. That the women of our church at large be urged to make special efforts in behalf of these schools, [suitable boarding schools for girls], and in the Zenana work, or work which Christian women may do, in visiting and endeavoring to teach and evangelize heathen women, in the seclusion and privacy of their homes. Vol. IV, p. 36, 1874.

Resolved, 6. That, as in all our missions, the Board is urging the missionaries to encourage and carry on, as far as may be possible and in the best ways practicable, the work of educating and evangelizing heathen women, the Assembly urge the women in all our churches to make individual contributions for this purpose, or organize and carry on societies for it, that the Board may have in its general fund the means of more and more thoroughly and usefully performing this in common with the other parts of our great work, and we rejoice to know that quite a number of our churches have formed such societies with gratifying results. Vol. IV, p. 182, 1875.

Resolved, 1. That the effort to form a general woman's missionary society meets the hearty approval of the Assembly.

2. That the constitution offered by Mrs. Hanna, with the amendments suggested by your committee, be endorsed by the Assembly.

3. That * * be a committee to organize a society on the basis of this constitution.

4. That the same committee be instructed to secure, as far as practicable, the formation of an auxiliary society in every congregation in the church. Vol. IV, p. 188, 1875.

Resolved, 8. That the women in all our congregations be urged to cultivate an increased interest in the cause of missions, and that wherever it is deemed advisable, women's missionary societies be organized for the purpose of cultivating a missionary spirit and increasing the amount of contributions to the cause of missions.

9. That the Assembly acknowledges with devout gratitude the earnest and efficient labors of Mrs. Sarah F. Hanna in the organization of women's missionary societies (about seventy having been organized during the year), and that, at her request, the following changes be made in the constitution under which these societies are organized, viz.: that in Article 1st the word "foreign" be omitted, in order that societies in congregations may be at liberty to decide as to the particular mission work to which they shall contribute; and that Article 4th be so changed as to make it the duty of the treasurers of auxiliary societies to contribute their funds through the financial agents of Presbyteries to the general treasurer.

10. That the committee appointed by the last Assembly to organize women's missionary societies be continued. Vol. IV, p. 305, 1876.

Resolved, 8. That the committee appointed two years ago and re-appointed by the last General Assembly to organize women's missionary societies be continued, and that it is the privilege of such societies, under their constitution as amended last year, to raise funds, not only for Home and Foreign Missions, but for any or all the Boards of the church. Vol. IV, p. 444, 1877.

Resolved, 3. That the Assembly recognizing the importance of the results achieved by the women's missionary societies, re-appoint the committee of previous years to continue the work of organizing such societies, and invite the Christian women of our whole church to undertake, among the objects of their activity, in furtherance of our work at home and abroad, the support of female missionaries and teachers, and the erection of buildings for girls' schools in the respective fields of Egypt and India.

4. That in order to secure unity of purpose and action in all our operations, the Assembly direct that no work in behalf of the foreign mission cause be undertaken by women's missionary societies, or by any other society, apart from and independent of the Board of Foreign Missions, and that such work shall be taken up only when asked for by the missions in the foreign field and sanctioned by the Board. Vol. IV, p. 577, 1878.

Resolved, 1. That the establishment of ladies' missionary societies in the congregations be encouraged.

2. That the ladies be solicited to devote whatever funds they raise in their societies to the several departments of missionary work, as nearly as possible in proportion to the amount appropriated by the General Assembly.

3. That when a Presbyterial society is formed, it shall make an annual report to the Presbytery, and when such Presbyterial society is not formed, the report shall be made through the Session.

4. That each Presbytery shall report to the General Assembly the number of missionary societies under its care, together with such statistics respecting members, collections, &c., as may give an intelligent account of its proceedings and results.

5. That these statistics be incorporated in the annual minutes of the General Assembly.

6. That in order to avoid confusion in the management of the finances, all money contributed by the societies to the Boards shall be transmitted through the financial agents appointed by the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 594, 1878.

13. **A Monthly Publication to be Issued by the Board of Foreign Missions.**—*Resolved*, 4. That the Board be authorized and recommended to issue a monthly missionary publication in a cheap form for general circulation through the church. Vol. I, p. 118, 1860.

Resolved, 4. That the missionary paper proposed to be published by the Board of Foreign Missions be recommended to the pastors and people of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 227, 1861.

Resolved, 5. That for the purpose of disseminating information on the subject of our foreign missions, the Board * * be directed to inquire into the expediency and practicability of establishing and publishing monthly a missionary paper to be devoted principally to giving information on the subject of our missions, home and foreign. Vol. III, p. 407, 1872.

XXXI. FREEDMEN, BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE.

1. **Charter of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen.**—[Granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, approved by the Governor, March 25, 1868, accepted and adopted by the Assembly, Vol. 2, p. 509, 1868.]

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c., that John B. Clark, C. A. Dickey, A. Calhoun, Wm. J. Reid, S. B. Reed, W. H. Andrew, John Dean, James Mitchell, James Patterson, and their successors duly chosen, as hereinafter specified, are hereby created a body politic and corpo-

rate in deed and in law, by the name, style and title of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

SEC. II. That the said corporation by that name shall have and enjoy perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law and equity to take, purchase, hold and receive to them and their successors any lands, tenements, goods, chattels, sum or sums of money, which are now or shall or may at any time hereafter become the property of said corporation by purchase, gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, devise, bequest, or otherwise, from any person or persons whomsoever, and the same to grant, bargain, sell, mortgage, improve or dispose of for the use and benefit of the said corporation or body politic, and in general to do all things which may be lawful and necessary for the well being and proper management of the said corporation; *Provided*, that the net yearly income from the real estate of said corporation shall not exceed three thousand dollars.

SEC. III. That the said corporation shall have power to make and use a common and corporate seal, and to alter, destroy and renew the same at pleasure; and to make such by-laws, rules and regulations as shall be necessary for the government of the said corporation, and for the management and safe-keeping of the funds and other property thereto belonging, and their appropriation and use in accordance with the intent and purposes of its institution: *Provided*, that no by-law, rule or regulation as aforesaid shall be valid, if inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, the constitution and laws of the United States, or the discipline of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

SEC. IV. That the object of the said corporation shall be to educate the freedmen of the South in secular and religious knowledge, by establishing and supporting schools and churches amongst them, and by such other means as are appropriate to missionary operations.

SEC. V. That the members of the said corporation shall be such as the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America shall choose and appoint, and shall consist of nine persons, who shall be divided into three classes, as at present constituted, three persons being in each class, whose term of membership shall be three years, so that one class of three persons shall be annually appointed, and one class of three persons shall annually go out.

SEC. VI. That the officers of said corporation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, who shall remain in office during a term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified, and shall be chosen by the corporation from its own membership, on the first Tuesday of July of each and every year; and that until an election shall be had under this act, William J. Reid shall be president, S. B. Reed, vice-president, John B. Clark, secretary. and John Dean, treasurer, of the said corporation.

SEC. VII. That no misnomer of said corporation or their successors shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest, to or from

said corporation; *Provided*, that the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will, or other writing, whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen.**—[A constitution for the Board of Missions to the Freedmen was adopted, Vol. I, p. 498, 1863, but it was superseded by the general constitution of the Boards, and the following new constitution:]

I. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Missions to the Freedmen of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Pittsburgh.

II. To this Board shall be entrusted, under the direction and control of the General Assembly, the direction and oversight of Missions to the Freedmen. They shall have the right to select and recommend fields of labor; appoint missionaries and teachers; prepare, for the Assembly, estimates of all appropriations and expenditures of money, and take all action that may be necessary to secure the successful prosecution of the work committed to their care. Vol. IV. p. 23, 1874.

3. **Regulations of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen.**—[No regulations for the government of this Board have been adopted by the Assembly.]

4. **A Normal School Among the Freedmen.**—*Resolved*, 4. That the Assembly regards with special favor the erection of a normal school, in which individuals may be trained up for missionaries and teachers among the people of their own color; and that it be left with the Board to adopt such measures as to them may seem best for the accomplishment of this object. Vol. II, p. 154, 1865.

Resolved, 4. That this Assembly do endorse the resolution of the last Assembly and the late report of the Board in recommending the erection of a normal school for the purpose of qualifying freedmen for missionaries and teachers. Vol. II, p. 310, 1866.

Resolved, 4. That the Board be instructed, as soon as the necessary funds can be obtained, to establish at such a place in the South as it may deem most advisable, a normal school for the training of colored teachers. Vol. III, p. 13, 1869.

Resolved, 3. That we recommend the Board to proceed, as soon as may be, with the establishment of a normal school somewhere in the South, and that they be authorized to draw upon the church for the funds necessary for this purpose. Vol. III, p. 156, 1870.

Resolved, 1. That the Board be urged to secure funds and establish a normal school as soon as possible. Vol. III, p. 275, 1871.

Resolved, 1. That all efforts to establish a normal school among the freedmen be discontinued. Vol. III, p. 388, 1872.

Resolved, 1. That the matter of establishing a normal school among the freedmen of the South be referred to the Board of Missions to the Freedmen, with instructions to investigate the subject, and if the funds can be obtained and a suitable location can be secured, and if in their judgment the establishment of such an institution would be wise, that they be authorized to begin the work, and

that they report their action to the next Assembly. Vol. III, p. 529, 1873.

The Assembly of last year revived this work, and instructed the Board to establish a normal school. These instructions have been carried out with promptness. Knoxville has been selected as the location which promises the best results. * * * Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the conduct of the Board in this work be approved. Vol. IV, p. 18, 1874.

Resolved, 1. That the Board of Freedmen's Missions be directed to proceed immediately to erect the necessary buildings for a mission training school among the freedmen, and to open said school as soon as possible. Vol. IV, p. 176, 1875.

5. **Dormitories**.—*Resolved*, 1. That we recommend to the Board the propriety of providing dormitories and cheap boarding for pupils at Knoxville as soon as they may be able to do so. Vol. IV, p. 442, 1877.

6. **Students' Fund.**—*Resolved*, 4. That we authorize the Board to establish a fund for the assistance of worthy students, which shall be permanently vested, and the interest used annually for the aforesaid purpose. Vol. IV, p. 442, 1877.

7. **History of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen.**—[Missions among the freedmen were carried on under the direction of several Presbyteries previous to 1863, when the Board of Missions to the Freedmen was organized. With a view of transferring the work of this Board to other Boards of the church, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 2. That the school work in the literary department be discontinued at the end of the present year.

3. That the congregations at Nashville and Vicksburg be placed under the care of the Presbytery of Tennessee, and referred to the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions for aid, to whatever amount may be necessary to support the pastors of these congregations.

4. That the Board of Freedmen's Missions be directed to deed their property at Nashville, Vicksburg and Leavenworth to the Board of Church Extension, and transfer any funds that may be in their hands to the Board of Home Missions.

5. That they be directed to make careful inquiry for young men of piety and talent in these missions, having the gospel ministry in view, and needing aid, and have these placed under the care of the Board of Education.

6. That the Board of Freedmen's Missions be directed to settle their business, if possible, by the end of the year, and as soon as their business is settled, discontinue their organization. Vol. III, p. 388, 1872.

[The next Assembly continued the Board by the following action:]

Resolved, 4. That the Board of Freedmen's Missions be continued as one of the regular Boards of the church, and that said Board have a general supervision over our educational enterprises among the freedmen. Vol. III, p. 530, 1873.

[A resolution to consolidate the Boards of Freedmen's Missions and of Home Missions was introduced into the Assembly of 1874, but it was negatived. Vol. IV, p. 18, 1874. A plan for consolidating the Boards of Freedmen's Missions, Home Missions and Church Extension was overtured to the Presbyteries. Vol. IV, p. 570, 1878.]

XXXII. FREE PEWS.

Resolved, 2. That Sessions and trustees be recommended to abolish the system of renting pews as inconsistent with freedom of worship, as a hindrance to benevolence, and as making merchandise of the house of God. Vol. III, p. 534, 1873.

XXXIII. GAILEY'S APPEAL.

[Rev. R. Gailey appealed from the Presbytry of Mansfield to the First Synod of the West, which issued the case, the Synod being then vested with final power in matters of discipline, the General Assembly having appellate power in doctrine and order only. After the erection of the Synod of Ohio out of a part of the First Synod of the West, Mr. Gailey brought his appeal to the Synod of Ohio, which Synod, being co-ordinate with the First Synod of the West, decided not to entertain his appeal. From this decision he appealed to the Assembly. The Assembly sustained the Synod of Ohio, and adopted the following resolution:]

Resolved, That the appeal and accompanying papers of Rev. R. Gailey be and they hereby are returned to him. Vol. II, p. 314, 1866.

XXXIV. GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. **Charter of the General Assembly.**—[Ordered by the Assembly, Vol. I, p. 37, 1859; granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania; approved by the Governor, March 22, 1860, and accepted by the Assembly. Vol. I, p. 114, 1860.]

Section I. Be it enacted, &c., That James McCandless, Graham Scott, John Alexander, Thomas McCance, William Getty, William M. Bell and David Reed, and their successors in office, duly elected as hereinafter specified, be and they are hereby constituted and declared a body politic, and corporate in deed and in law by the name, style and title of Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

Sec. II. That said corporation shall have perpetual succession and the right to hold lands, tenements, rents, franchises and other hereditaments and all personal property which heretofore have been conveyed, assigned, transferred, devised and bequeathed to the ministers and elders composing the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, or to any person or persons in trust for them; and the same is hereby vested in said corporation forever for such uses and purpose as said conveyances, assignments, transfers, bequests and devises were respectively made or intended; and said corporation is hereby declared to be seized and possessed of such estates and interest as in and by said conveyances, assignments, transfers, bequests and devises thereof is or

are declared limited, expressed or intended; and, further, said corporation shall have all the rights, franchises and powers which by law pertain to corporations, the right to hold and possess real and personal property, yielding a net annual income not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, and the same to dispose of at pleasure, but said limitation not to be construed as including the annual or periodical collections and voluntary contributions made in the churches under the care of said General Assembly or contributions from any other source. Provided that in cases where special instructions for the management and disposal thereof shall be given by the General Assembly in writing under the hand of their clerk, it shall be the duty of said corporation to act according to such instructions.

SEC. III. That no misnomer of said corporation shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to or from said corporation; provided that the intent of such gift, grant, devise or bequest shall sufficiently appear that the same was intended to pass to or from said corporation.

SEC. IV. That said corporation shall have power to adopt and use one common seal, and the same to break, alter, amend and renew at pleasure.

SEC. V. That said corporation by the name, style and title aforesaid shall be able to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity, or before any justice of the peace or alderman in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, matters and demands of whatever nature, kind or form the same may be.

SEC. VI. That said corporation shall have full power to make, pass and establish by-laws for the proper administration of the funds and the due government of said corporation; provided, that said by-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or the constitution or laws of this Commonwealth.

SEC. VII. That said corporators shall compose the Board of Trustees of said corporation until the next regular meeting of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, when two trustees in addition shall be elected by said General Assembly who, with said corporators, shall constitute thereafter a full Board of Trustees who shall be divided into three classes, of three members each, in alphabetical order, and whose term of office shall expire as follows, to-wit: the term of office for the first class shall expire on the first Tuesday of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one; the term of office of the second class shall shall expire on the first Tuesday of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two; and the term of office of the third class shall expire on the first Tuesday of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three. Further, said General Assembly shall, at their regular meeting in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and annually thereafter, elect three persons to serve as trustees to supply the places of those whose term of office shall expire as aforesaid; provided, however, that on failure to elect trustees as aforesaid, or in case of death, resignation or other inability, those remaining in office shall have full power to fill such vacancies until the next regular meeting of the General Assembly.

SEC. VIII. That five members of this corporation shall constitute a quorum, and be a sufficient number to transact the business of said corporation, to make by-laws, rules and regulations, whose regular meetings shall be on the first Tuesdays of July, October, January and April; provided, that previous to any special meeting of said corporation not appointed by adjournments, it shall be the duty of the officer calling a meeting to cause notice to be sent by mail to each member ten days prior to such meeting, and said corporation may as often as shall be prescribed by the by-laws elect from said Board of Trustees a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or other officers.

SEC. IX. That all questions before said corporation shall be decided by a majority of the trustees present, and said corporation shall keep regular and fair entries of their proceedings, and a just account of their receipts and disbursements in a book or books kept for that purpose, and the treasurer shall exhibit to said General Assembly, at each regular meeting, an exact state of the accounts of said corporation. Vol. I, p. 334, 1861.

2. **Officers of the General Assembly, Order of Business, &c.**—See Rules of Order.

3. **Time of the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.**—[Though there is no law on this point, recent usage has fixed the fourth Wednesday of May as the time for the annual meeting of the General Assembly.]

4. **Ratio of Representation in the General Assembly.**—*Resolved*, That for the present the ratio of representation as fixed by the Twelfth General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church be, and the same hereby is adopted and continued in the United Church as follows: Every Presbytery containing two ministers shall be entitled to send one minister and one ruling elder; every Presbytery containing five ministers shall be entitled to send two ministers and two ruling elders; every Presbytery containing eight ministers shall be entitled to send three ministers and three ruling elders; every Presbytery containing fourteen ministers shall be entitled to send four ministers and four ruling elders; every Presbytery containing more than fourteen ministers shall be entitled to send for each additional four ministers, one minister and one ruling elder. Vol. I, p. 31, 1859.

Resolved, That the next General Assembly be composed of commissioners from the Presbyteries according to the proportion proposed by the Book of Discipline now in overture. Vol. I, p. 123, 1860.

Resolved, That the next General Assembly be constituted on the basis of representation recognized in our proposed Book of Government and Discipline. Vol. I, p. 226, 1861.

[After the Book of Government and Discipline was adopted, a committee was appointed by the Assembly to consider the propriety of reducing the ratio of representation, Vol. III, p. 422, 1872. This committee reported to the next Assembly, but no action seems to have have been taken, Vol. III, p. 515, 1873.]

[The Presbytery of Keokuk requested the General Assembly "to so change the basis of representation, that the ministers only who are actually engaged in the work of the ministry, be counted in the basis of representation."]

It is submitted that the rights and privileges, pertaining to the ministerial office, are not founded on the exercise of that office. By ordination to the office of the ministry, authority to govern as well as to teach, is conferred. The non-exercise of the right to teach does not in any way affect the right to govern. Since the above desired regulation would infringe upon the ordained prerogatives of the ministry; therefore,

Resolved, That the request can not be granted. Vol. IV, p 440, 1877.

5. **Expenses of Commissioners to the General Assembly.**—See Delegate Fund.

6. **Commissioners to the General Assembly should not Absent Themselves.**—*Resolved*, That the Assembly deprecates and hereby expresses its unqualified disapprobation of the course pursued by members in absenting themselves from the Assembly, except in cases of extreme emergency, and recommend to Presbyteries the election, as commissioners, of such members only as pledge themselves, God willing, to remain and attend closely to the business during the entire meeting. Vol. I, p. 115, 1860.

7. **The Number of Ministers in the Presbytery to be Stated in the Credentials of Commissioners.**—*Resolved*, That the clerk of each Presbytery be directed to state on the face of credentials to the Assembly, the number of ministers in his Presbytery. Vol. I, p. 500, 1863.

8. **Appellate Power given to the General Assembly in Cases of Discipline.**—[An amendment to the Book of Government and Discipline, in relation to the appellate power of the General Assembly in cases of discipline, was submitted to the Presbyteries as a separate overture, Vol. I, p. 351, 1862. This overture was adopted by the following vote: ayes, 327; nays, 158; not voting, 4. Vol. I, p. 490, 1863.]

9. **Fund of the General Assembly.**—*Resolved*, That a fund be created, to be called "The Fund of the General Assembly," to which our congregations are enjoined to contribute annually. Vol. I, p. 37, 1859.

10. **Printing, Stationery, &c., for the Assembly.**—*Resolved*, 7. That the clerks be authorized to give warrants for the payment of bills for printing, stationery and other expenses necessary to the work of the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 453, 1877.

XXXV. GORDON'S APPEAL.

[Rev. Henry Gordon and others appealed from a decision of the Synod of New York in the case of J. M. Hall, carried up by appeal from the Presbytery of Argyle. This appeal was declared "not

admissible," because the appellants were not original parties in the case, and because the interests of truth and righteousness were not injuriously affected by the decision of Synod. Vol. III, p. 420, 1872. This case was brought before the Assembly of 1873 by the memorial of Rev. G. M. Wiley, who claimed that the result of the action of the Assembly of 1872 was to send the case of J. M. Hall back to the Synod of New York for adjudication, and that the said Synod had refused to take up and issue the case; and who asked the Assembly to require the Synod to take up the case. This memorial was disposed of as follows:] From an examination of the action of the Assembly of last year, your committee do not understand said action as referring the case back to the Synod for final adjudication; therefore,

Resolved, That the request of the memorialist be not granted. Vol. III, p. 547, 1873.

XXXVI. GREEN'S APPEAL.

[The appeal of Adam Green from a decision of the Synod of Illinois was "dismissed as irregular," because there was nothing to show that the appellant had furnished a copy of his reasons of appeal, either to the moderator or clerk, within the time required by law, or afterwards. Vol. II, p. 394, 1867.]

XXXVII. HILL'S CASE.

[Rev. R. A. Hill, a member of the Presbytery of Sealkote, presented a memorial to the Assembly, complaining of the action of the Presbytery, which refused to admit him to sacramental communion on the ground of his views on the subject of intercommunion, and then suspended him for declining their authority. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That, without expressing any opinion as to the views of Rev. R. A. Hill on the question for which he was suspended by the Presbytery of Sealkote, this Assembly deem the action of said Presbytery in suspending Mr. Hill, when he had declared that he would not agitate the question, or preach, or teach, contrary to the principles of the United Presbyterian Church, so long as he remained in her connection, as irregular and unwarrantable; and, therefore, that the suspension should be removed.

2. That the Assembly direct the said Presbytery to furnish Rev. R. A. Hill, at his request, with an attested copy of their whole minutes in his case.

3. That the Assembly recommend the Presbytery, in case Rev. R. A. Hill should come to the conclusion that it is his duty to unite with another branch of the church, to take no further action in his case than to strike his name from their roll.

4. That this Assembly is not prepared to express any opinion as to the charges made against Mr. Hill, subsequent to the 10th of April, which charges, the Presbytery expressly declare are not mentioned in their final action as proved, but as charges to which he was liable.

5. That should Mr. Hill continue as a member of the Presbytery of Sealkote, he be specially enjoined to pursue the things that make for peace.

6. That this action of the General Assembly shall not be construed as giving any countenance to unrestricted communion. Vol. I, p. 231, 1861.

[This case came before the Assembly of 1862 by a protest and petition of the members of the Sealkote Presbytery, who complained that the case came before the Assembly of 1861 without their knowledge, and without an opportunity of their being heard in their own defense, and that the action of the Assembly was based on a misapprehension of Presbytery's action. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the Presbytery be directed to restore Mr. Hill to his former standing upon declaring his willingness to submit to the authority of Presbytery, and declaring his resolution to abide by our professed principles on the subjects that have occasioned these troubles, and to study the things that make for peace.

2. That if any of the parties, that is, Mr. Hill or any other member of the mission, cannot accede to this as a final end to all their disastrous troubles, the Board of Foreign Missions be directed to recall him or them from the field, and take measures to supply their places, that this once prosperous mission be restored to the confidence and support of the church. Vol. I, p. 354, 1862.

[The Presbytery attached other conditions to those required by the Assembly. Mr. Hill refused to withdraw his declinature, and appealed to the Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the appeal of Mr. Hill is, in some respects, irregular; yet, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, we think it will be expedient to give judgment respecting it.

2. That the appeal of Mr. Hill be sustained, so far as relates to the form in which the questions of the Presbytery were proposed to him.

3. That it be not sustained so far as relates to his refusal to withdraw his declinature.

4. That his case be now issued.

5. That on Mr. Hill's declaring his acquiescence in the directions of the Assembly of 1862, and also his withdrawal of his declinature of the authority of the Presbytery of Sealkote, he be restored to good standing in the United Presbyterian Church.

The moderator then read to Mr. Hill the resolution of the Assembly requiring him to withdraw his declinature, to which he responded in the affirmative. He also read to him the act of the last Assembly, to which he expressed his agreement. The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the answer of Mr. Hill be considered satisfactory, and that he be declared in good standing in the United Presbyterian Church.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to furnish Mr. Hill with a certified extract of the minute in his case, and that any Presbytery under the care of this Assembly, to which he may apply, is authorized to receive him as in regular standing. Vol. I, p. 492, 1863.

XXXVIII. HISTORY OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

1. **A Committee Appointed to Prepare a History of the United Presbyterian Church.**—WHEREAS, Measures are now in progress, under the direction of the National Government, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of its independence; and,

WHEREAS, Our civil and religious liberty, as well as our national prosperity, is largely the result of the Christian features of our national life, and no exhibition will give to the world an adequate idea of our institutions without a presentation of the Protestant Christian Churches of the country; and,

WHEREAS, Other churches have taken steps to prepare their respective histories for this purpose, it seems to be proper that the United Presbyterian Church should also prepare a statement of its history, principles and polity, and make grateful record of the manifold goodness of God to her as a church; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That a committee be appointed to prepare a complete history of the United Presbyterian Church, showing: 1. Its origin, progress and present statistics. 2. Its principles. 3. Its home and foreign missionary work. 4. Its educational interests.

3. That the members of this committee be instructed to divide the work among themselves, according to their judgment, and to suit their own convenience, and to report to the next General Assembly any additional action which, in their judgment, may be necessary to carry out the intention of these resolutions. Vol. IV, p. 26, 1874.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly that meetings had been held and arrangements made for the preparation of papers on the subjects referred to them, and they asked that the committee be enlarged and that the Assembly provide for the publication of the papers to be prepared. These requests were granted. Vol. IV, p. 187, 1875. The enlarged committee reported progress to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That this committee be continued, and directed to complete their work as soon as possible.

2. That the Board of Publication be instructed to publish, in a suitable volume, under the supervision of the committee, the papers to which reference is made in this report. Vol. IV, p. 362, 1876.

2. **Record of the Organization of Associate and Associate Reformed Presbyteries and Synods.**—[The second clerk reported a record of the organization of the Presbyteries and Synods of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches, Vol. IV, p. 563, 1878, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the record of organizations be printed in the appendix to the minutes. Vol. IV, p. 594, 1878. [The publication of this record was deferred till the next year, in order to secure greater completeness.]

XXXIX HOME MISSIONS, BOARD OF.

1. **Charter of the Board of Home Missions.**—[Ordered by the Assembly, Vol. III, p. 405, 1872; granted by the Court of Com-

mon Pleas of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, March 21, 1874, and recorded in the office for the recording of deeds, &c., in said county, on the 10th day of April, 1874, in charter book Vol. IV, p. 511.]

ARTICLE I, Be it remembered that John G. Brown, William J. Reid, A. G. Wallace, Wm. J. Robinson, J. W. Witherspoon, W. S. Owens, R. A. Cunningham, James McCutcheon, S. Mahood and G. M. Reed, and their successors, elected and appointed as hereinafter directed, being citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are hereby associated under the name and title of the Board of Home Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, and by said name and title shall have succession, and be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or courts, and in all causes and matters whatsoever; to make and use a common seal, and to alter and renew the same at pleasure; to purchase, receive, acquire, hold, use and dispose of, for the purpose and objects herein named, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises, moneys, goods, chattels and hereditaments; to make rules, by-laws and ordinances not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or to this instrument.

ARTICLE II. The object of this corporation shall be the publication and extension of the gospel of Jesus Christ on the continent of North America, subject to the authority and direction of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, and in accordance with the authorized standards and usages of said United Presbyterian Church, by the employment and support of ministers and missionaries, and by other lawful and appropriate means.

ARTICLE III. The officers of the corporation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and such other officers and agents as may be from time to time required.

ARTICLE IV. The corporation shall consist of the following persons and their successors, viz.: Rev. J. W. Witherspoon, S. Mahood and James McCutcheon, who have been elected and appointed members of said Board to serve until their successors shall be elected in the year 1874, as provided in Article v of this instrument: Rev. A. G. Wallace, Rev. Wm. J. Robinson and G. M. Reed, who have been appointed to serve until their successors shall be elected in like manner, in the year 1875; Rev. Wm. J. Reid, W. S. Owens and R. A. Cunningham, who have been appointed to serve until their successors shall be elected in like manner, in the year 1876; and the corresponding secretary elected by the General Assembly of said United Presbyterian Church (now being the Rev. John G. Brown) and his successor in office shall be ex-officio a member of said Board, and five of said members or their successors in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Said Board shall once in each year exhibit to the General Assembly of said United Presbyterian Church an exact statement of its accounts, funds and property.

ARTICLE V. The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America shall, in the year 1874, and annually thereafter, elect three persons as members of this corporation, to serve for a period of three years; and in case of a vacancy in the

membership thereof by reason of death, resignation or other cause, the remaining members of said Board shall elect a person to fill the unexpired term, provided, however, that such election shall be reported to the next General Assembly.

ARTICLE VI. The officers and agents of this corporation shall be elected or appointed from time to time in such manner and for such term as shall be prescribed in the by-laws.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Home Missions.**—[A constitution for the Board of Home Missions was adopted, Vol. I, p. 45, 1859, but it was superseded by the general constitution of the Boards, and the following new constitution:]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Home Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Pittsburgh

2. The general supervision, under the direction and control of the General Assembly, of the whole work of home missions, shall be entrusted to the general committee of home missions, which shall be composed of one delegate from each Presbytery of the Church, elected annually by the Presbytery. The general committee shall annually make a distribution of the men and means placed at its disposal, and take action upon any other matters affecting the cause of home missions, being governed in its proceedings by the "Rules for the Regulation of Home Mission Work." It shall be the special duty of the Board of Home Missions to carry out the plan of operations recommended by the general committee, and revised and adopted by the General Assembly. The Board shall have charge and oversight of the work of home missions, and shall have power to meet emergencies arising during the year. Vol. IV, p. 23, 1874.

3. **Regulations of the Board of Home Missions.**—[Regulations for the Board of Home Missions were adopted, Vol. I, p. 46, 1859, and amended, Vol. I, p. 158, 1860; Vol. I, p. 240, 1861; Vol. II, p. 513, 1868. These regulations as thus amended were superseded by the following new regulations:]

I. REGULATIONS FOR PRESBYTERIES.—1. Each Presbytery shall appoint, annually, one delegate to represent it in the general committee of home missions. If it be possible to avoid it, Presbyteries shall not appoint as delegates persons receiving or expecting aid from the home mission fund.

2. Presbyteries shall report annually, not later than the 20th of April, to the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions:

(*a.*) The names of mission stations for which aid is needed, and the amount which, in the judgment of the Presbytery, should be granted to each one.

(*b.*) The number of missionaries whose services they desire for the next year.

(*c.*) The names of all unsettled ministers and probationers connected with the Presbytery, who are suitable and willing to receive appointments.

(*d.*) Answers to any questions which the Assembly may authorize to be addressed to them.

(*e.*) The names of delegates to the general committee.

3. In making recommendations for aid, Presbyteries shall observe the following rules: [For formula of application for aid, see Vol. IV, p. 472, 1877.]

(*a.*) No station shall be recommended in which the contributions of the people are not in reasonable proportion to their ability, nor shall any amount be asked beyond what, in the judgment of the Presbytery, is really necessary.

(*b.*) Whenever practicable, mission stations and congregations shall be grouped together in convenient pastoral charges, and no station shall be recommended for aid which can be conveniently united with a neighboring station or congregation in one charge, for which no help would be necessary.

4. No station or congregation, not contributing to the Boards of the Church, or which obtaining aid from the Board of *Church Extension* refuses the required security, shall receive aid.

5. Presbyteries shall assign the missionaries appointed to them to different stations as they may judge best, and shall be under obligations to keep them employed, or otherwise to pay them at the regular per diem.

6. Leave to supply themselves shall not be granted to stations and vacancies when such permission would leave without employment missionaries assigned to the Presbytery, and willing to fulfill appointments.

7. Presbyteries shall not be under obligation to find employment for men not appointed to labor in their bounds, or merely referred back to them.

8. When a missionary is settled by any Presbytery, who has unfulfilled missionary appointments outside its bounds, that Presbytery shall supply his place out of the appointments made for it, if there be any.

9. In case any missionary shall fail to fulfill his appointments, without giving satisfactory reasons, the Presbytery concerned shall report the facts to his Presbytery.

10. Each Presbytery shall nominate, annually, to the General Assembly, one of the ministers connected with it, for appointment as superintendent of missions for the Presbytery. It shall be his duty to superintend the mission work in his Presbytery; to obtain a quarterly report from stations receiving aid, and from missionaries laboring in the Presbytery; to make a quarterly report, in the form approved by the Assembly, to the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions; to receive from the treasurer of the Board, receipt for, and distribute the money appropriated to aid congregations and stations, and in general to act as the organ of communication between the Board and the Presbytery, and perform such duties as the Assembly may direct.

II. REGULATIONS FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.—1. The general committee of home missions shall meet annually, at or near the place appointed for the meeting of the Assembly, seven working days before the session of the Assembly begins. A majority of delegates, duly appointed by Presbyteries, shall be a quorum.

2. The general committee when assembled, shall be called to order by the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Mis-

sions, who shall be, ex-officio, permanent secretary of the general committee and shall preside until an organization is effected. He shall call the roll and if a quorum be found present, the organization shall be completed by the election of a chairman and an assistant secretary.

3. The business of the general committee may be taken up in the following order:

(*a.*) Consideration of the Annual Report of the Board, so far as necessary.

(*b.*) Appropriation of money.

(*c.*) Distribution of men.

(*d.*) Miscellaneous business.

4. On the second day of the meeting two committees shall be appointed, the members of which shall be nominated by the chairman, viz.:

(*a.*) A committee on special missions.

(*b.*) A committee on resolutions and recommendations to the Assembly.

5. In the appropriation of money the general committee shall keep in view the interests of the whole field and the relative importance and necessities of the different parts. The following order of procedure may be observed:

(*a.*) Fix the maximum amount to be appropriated.

(*b.*) Take up the application of Presbyteries in the order in which they stand on the secretary's record of reports.

(*c.*) As each Presbytery is taken up hear the delegate from that Presbytery, taking care to ascertain that the rules relating to recommendations for aid have been observed, and then take action on each separate application.

(*d.*) When the list has been gone through, the appropriations may be revised, if it is found necessary.

6. In the distribution of men, also, the general committee shall keep in view the interests of the whole field, and the relative claims of different parts. Appointments shall not be made for less than three months, except in the case of probationers expecting to return to the theological seminary. Care shall be taken that the appointments of a missionary be not unnecessarily scattered, and his reasonable wishes, if known, shall be regarded so far as the circumstances of the case will permit. The following order of proceeding may be observed:

(*a.*) Take up the names of missionaries separately, in the order in which they are entered on the secretary's book as reported by Presbyteries.

(*b.*) The delegate from the Presbytery reporting the name may be heard.

(*c.*) Applications for his services may be received. If there are several, they shall be noted by the secretary or his assistant in the order in which they are recognized and announced by the chairman.

(*d.*) Hear statement of claims from the different Presbyteries in order as noted, and any other remarks.

(*e.*) The vote shall then be taken. The followiug order in taking the vote is recommended where there are several applications: 1.

Let the request of competing Presbyteries be arranged and voted on in order as follows: Those covering the whole year; those for more than one quarter; those for the several quarters in order. 2. If for any of these periods there are competing requests, let the vote in favor of each competing Presbytery be taken by raising the hand, or by rising, and let the highest vote decide.

7. Under the head of miscellaneous business, the general committee shall receive and act upon the reports of committees, and take such action as may be thought proper on any matter relating to the home mission work.

8. When all business is thus transacted, a full report of the proceedings shall be prepared. This report shall be signed by all the officers, and shall be presented to the Assembly as soon as possible after the opening of its sessions, for revision and final adoption. If possible the whole report shall be printed and copies distributed among the members of the Assembly, before it comes up for action.

III. REGULATIONS FOR THE BOARD.—1. The Board of Home Missions shall meet on the second Monday of every month. At the first meeting after the adjournment of the General Assembly in each year, they shall elect from their own number a president and a recording secretary to serve one year. They shall elect a treasurer, at the same time and for the same term, and shall require from him such security as may be judged necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of the Board to carry out the measures adopted by the General Assembly, from year to year; to take general supervision and control of the work; to meet emergencies arising during the year; and to make safe and proper investment of all funds intended by the donors or ordered by the General Assembly to be invested.

3. The Board is forbidden, except in case of extreme necessity, to grant appropriations of money to any station whose application for the current year has been considered and rejected by the general committee or the Assembly.

4. Near the close of each quarter, the corresponding secretary shall forward to the superintendents of missions, blanks in the form approved by the General Assembly, for quarterly reports. When the reports are received, he shall number them in the order of date of the application, and shall draw orders on the treasurer numbered in the same order, for the amount due to each Presbytery. In determining the amount due, those stations only shall be counted which are reported by the superintendent of missions as having fulfilled the conditions of the grant.

5. The treasurer shall pay the orders drawn by the corresponding secretary in the order of their number. He shall pay the amount due to each Presbytery to the superintendent of missions for that Presbytery. He shall not pay out any of the funds in his hands without an order from the corresponding secretary, or from the president and recording secretary of the Board.

6. As a general rule no money shall be paid upon any appropriation to which unfulfilled conditions are attached, without the authority of the Board. The Board is required to exercise great caution in removing or changing the conditions attached to grants

of money, and shall not do so in any case unless upon the formal request of the proper Presbytery, accompanied by a statement of reasons, entirely satisfactory to the Board.

7. Before the meeting of the general committee of home missions in each year a full report shall be prepared and adopted by the Board, detailing its operations during the year; the conditions, prospects, and necessities of the work entrusted to its care, and the request of Presbyteries for men and money for the ensuing year; together with such recommendations as may be thought proper. This report shall be printed, laid before the general committee of home missions on the first day of its meeting, and also before the Assembly.

8. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary, before each meeting of the general committee, to make out a roll of its members from the official reports received by him from Presbyteries.

9. The Board shall see that the accounts of the treasurer are properly audited at the close of each year, and that this is properly certified upon his annual report.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS.—1. All contributions for home missions should be forwarded through the financial agent of the Presbytery to the treasurer, and the financial agent shall forward to the treasurer at least once per quarter.

2. Ministers engaged in secular employment shall not receive aid from the home mission funds.

3. Missionaries assigned to any Presbytery shall be for the time subject to the control of that Presbytery and shall not leave its bounds without permission. In case of inability to fulfill appointments it shall be their duty to notify the superintendent of missions.

4. Missionaries are earnestly exhorted to the performance of pastoral duty in the stations to which they may be sent. They shall make a report of their labors at the end of each quarter to the superintendent of missions of the Presbytery, stating the time spent at each place; what amount of pastoral work has been done; whether they have been fully paid so far as it was the duty of stations to pay them, and any other facts of importance. Vol. IV, p. 159, 1875.

4. **Amendments to the Regulations of the Board of Home Missions.**—*Resolved*, 3. That in the second rule of the regulations for Presbyteries with reference to home missions, sections (*b*) and (*c*) be rescinded, and the following adopted, viz.: That Presbyteries be required to report each year the names of all unsettled ministers and licentiates under their care who may be able and suitable for work, to the general committee of home missions, for appointment, and also all vacant congregations and mission stations under their care, together with the amount of preaching they may desire and are able to make provision for during the coming year. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876.

5. **Property of Congregations Receiving Aid to be Secured to the Church.**—*Resolved*, That as a condition of receiving

aid from the home mission fund, Presbyteries are required to give assurance to the Board that the property of congregations asking aid is properly vested in the United Presbyterian Church, and that as far as possible they have complied with the rule of the General Assembly of 1873, which is as follows: "In trust that said premises shall be used and kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine worship, for the use of ministers and members of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, subject to the standards and acts of said church, as from time to time authorized by the General Assembly of said church; and in case the congregation shall cease to exist, or to be connected with or subject to the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of said church, or shall lose its corporate existence, the property shall enure, in all its holdings, to the Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

Resolved, That the Board of Church Extension be required to furnish the Board of Home Missions with a statement of the congregations to which aid has been given by the Board of Church Extension, and the security given by each congregation receiving such aid, that its property shall not be alienated from the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. IV, p. 472, 1877.

6. **Consolidation of the Boards of Home Missions, Church Extension and Freedmen's Missions.**—[The First Presbytery of Ohio memorialized the Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 636, 1878, for the consolidation of the Boards of Home Missions, Church Extension and Freedmen's Missions, the organization of a new Board, to be nominated by the Synods, and the election of a general secretary who should give his whole time to the work. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the memorial of the First Presbytery of Ohio be published, and that the several Presbyteries report their views on this subject to the next Assembly for final action. Vol. IV, p. 570, 1878.

7. **Plan for Re-arranging the Work of the Board of Home Missions.**—[The Presbytery of Mansfield asked that a change be made in the method of carrying on the home mission work, by distinguishing between vacancies which do not require aid and mission stations; and also between unsettled ministers and licentiates, and those properly enrolled as missionaries; by leaving vacancies, and unsettled ministers and licentiates not enrolled as missionaries, entirely under the control of their own Presbyteries; by organizing a corps of home missionaries, carefully selected, and who will agree to be absolutely subject to the appointment of the Board and Assembly, and who shall receive fixed, uniform and liberal salaries; by appointing missionaries to mission stations; and by requiring mission stations to pay their contributions for the support of the gospel directly to the treasury of the Home Mission Board. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to perfect a plan by which the change proposed by the Presbytery of Mansfield may be carried out; that this committee publish their report in

the papers of the church by the first of February next; and that the several Presbyteries present their views on this subject to the next Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 570, 1878.

Resolved, 9. That the recommendation contained in the report of the Board of Home Missions, "that the Board shall have the entire control of all special missions, with power to grant all appropriations and designate all missionaries," be referred to the special committee to prepare a plan for re-arranging the work of the Board of Home Missions. Vol. IV, p. 572, 1878.

8. **A Boarding Place to be Provided for Home Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 3. That in all cases, the mission station or vacancy, in which the missionary labors, shall carefully endeavor to designate, as far as possible, a fixed and convenient boarding place for him during the time of his service in their midst; and the Presbyteries shall endeavor to see that this regulation is faithfully carried out. Vol. II, p. 42, 1864.

9. **Duties of Home Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 4. That every missionary of this Board be required not only to furnish the ordinary service of the Sabbath, but also to organize and attend to Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings, to visit and catechize, and to use every means which he conscientiously believes are in his power to promote the missionary work. Vol. II, p. 42, 1864.

Resolved, 4. That in adopting this report, the Assembly directs all missionaries to fulfill their appointments, unless they can make arrangements satisfactory to all parties concerned to be released, and until the Presbyteries in whose bounds they propose to labor shall furnish acceptable substitutes. Vol. IV, p. 166, 1875.

10. **Pastoral Visitation Defined.**—*Resolved*, That by pastoral visitation is understood visitation with the purpose of promoting the spiritual interests of those visited, and not simply social visitation. Vol. IV, p. 472, 1877.

11. **Disabled Home Missionaries may Receive Half-pay.**—*Resolved*, 15. That missionaries of the Home Board are required to give themselves wholly to the work, and as their compensation is insufficient to enable them to lay up store against the day of need,—

16. That when these missionaries are broken down in the service of the church, that during such disability they shall be continued on half-pay, at the discretion of the executive committee. Vol. II, p. 314, 1866.

12. **Per Diem of Home Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, That eight dollars be allowed to missionaries for each Sabbath spent in missionary service. Vol. I, p. 37, 1859.

Whilst our missionaries are expected to bear their share of our country's embarrassment and distress; and whilst it would be exceedingly desirable that all the ministerial labor at our disposal should be employed, yet, as the Board of Home Missions has made its appropriations of men and money for the coming year on the basis of the eight dollar allowance, which appropriations have now been confirmed by the Assembly, and the Board dissolved; and as we hope for a better state of things, both in the church and in the

country, a year hence; and as the present compensation of our missionaries is in no wise exorbitant; we recommend the Assembly to take no action in relation to the matter. Vol. I, p. 349, 1862.

Resolved, 1. That Presbyteries be directed to recommend to the congregations under their care, receiving missionary labor, as far as possible to pay missionaries at the rate of ten dollars per week. Vol. II, p. 42, 1864.

Resolved, 14. That the compensation of our missionaries be advanced from ten to twelve dollars per Sabbath. Vol. II, p. 314, 1866.

Two Presbyteries memorialize the Assembly to raise the per diem of missionaries in the home work from twelve to fifteen dollars. Your committee think it would be unwise to grant these memorials. It would raise the compensation of supplies laboring in our vacancies, so that it would be greater than that received by many pastors, and, it is feared, might have a tendency in some cases to hinder settlements. Such a result should certainly be guarded against by this Assembly. We would therefore recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the memorials be not granted. Vol. II, p. 495, 1868.

Resolved, 4. That the per diem of home missionaries should not be less than fifteen dollars, and in cases of supplying old and well established congregations, the per diem should be largely increased. Vol. III, p. 534, 1873.

Resolved, That the per diem of home missionaries be fixed at twelve dollars. Vol. IV, p. 37, 1874.

13. **The Appointment of General Missionaries.**—*Resolved*, 5. That in cases of special necessity for missionary service, as in some of the frontier Presbyteries, the Board recommend an appropriation of money to be made for general missionary purposes, it being understood that the work of exploration and of visiting distant and important stations be done by an ordained minister, appointed either by the Presbytery or by the executive committee at the request of the Presbytery; and further, it is recommended that the appointment of a man to fill the place of a settled minister, who may be employed in the work above specified, be left with the executive committee. Vol. II, p. 42, 1864.

Resolved, 4. That two men be appointed by the Board as general missionaries for the territory west of the Mississippi river, to explore and preach, and with the consent of the Presbytery in whose bounds they may be laboring, to organize congregations and report monthly their work to the Presbytery, and each of these general missionaries to have a salary of $1,500 a year. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876. [The services of general missionaries were dispensed with. Vol. IV, p. 472, 1877.]

14. **Stated Supply Defined.**—*Resolved*, 8. That by "stated supply," shall be understood hereafter the continuous labors of a missionary for not less than three months in one place. Vol. II, p. 177, 1865.

15. **Appropriations Made to Pastors are on Condition of Settlement.**—*Resolved*, 3. That when an appropriation is made

to a place in which there is a settled minister, it shall be regarded as on condition of settlement, and ceases when the relation is dissolved. Vol. III, p. 139, 1870.

16. **Presbyteries are to Employ and Remunerate the Missionaries assigned them by the Assembly.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the Assembly recognizes it as the duty of Presbyteries, who have asked and obtained missionaries from the Board of Home Missions, and thereby prevented their receiving appointments in other Presbyteries to employ them, and to the extent of their ability, remunerate them. Vol. I, p. 225, 1861.

Resolved, 6. That whenever a missionary is appointed to a Presbytery at its request, that Presbytery be required to make up to him for any failures there may be in it to give him appointments. Vol. II, p. 42, 1864.

[See also Regulations of the Board of Home Missions for Presbyteries, No. 5.]

XL. INDIANS.

Missions Among the Indians.—The undersigned, appointed by the Fifth General Assembly a committee on the propriety of establishing a mission among the aborigines of our country, respectfully submit the following report: From the disturbed condition of the tribes on our northern and southwestern borders, from the means needed to carry on our missionary enterprises in other quarters, and the provision already made by other churches for the religious instruction of tribes in the peaceful parts of our land, we are prepared to recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That there is not, at present, sufficient encouragement to justify the Assembly in establishing a mission among the aborigines. Vol. II, p. 4, 1864.

Resolved, 16. That the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions be instructed to inquire into the practicability and desirableness of establishing a mission in connection with our church among the American Indians; and should the executive committee deem it best, it is hereby authorized to begin the work at once, it being the understanding that all the expense will be borne by the United States Government, and that we shall only be expected to furnish the missionaries. Vol. III, p. 264, 1871.

Resolved, That the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions be directed to consider the wants of the Indians, and, if they deem it advisable, that they establish a mission among our North American Indians. Vol. III, p. 405, 1872.

Resolved, 7. That this General Assembly take whatever steps are necessary to secure from the General Government the transfer of the superintendency of the Warm Springs Indians, in Oregon, to the United Presbyterian Church, and that the secretary of the Board, in conjunction with Rev. S. G. Irvine, D. D., of Albany, Oregon, be appointed to secure, if possible, such transfer. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876.

XLI. JEWS.

Missions Among the Jews.—*Resolved*, That * * * be a committee, whose duty it shall be to inquire regarding the accessi-

bility of the Jewish people in the United States to the influence of a simple Bible Christianity, and to report to the next General Assembly; and if the result of their inquiry be favorable, also to report any other facts of importance, as connected with such missionary enterprise, and designate, if in their power, a suitable person or persons for the work. Vol. I, p. 157, 1860.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, recommending the establishment of a mission among the Jews in the city of New York, Vol. I, p. 306, 1861, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the former committee be continued, and that they issue an appeal in behalf of the Jews of our own land through the periodicals of the church, embodying the facts in their report, and asking special contributions for their benefit.

2. That the contributions thus obtained be used for the obtaining and circulating such a Christian literature as is likely, by the blessing of God, to benefit the Jew.

3. That they continue their inquiries in reference to the accessibility of the Jews, and the best means of reaching them with a knowledge of the Saviour, and report to the next Assembly. Vol. I, p. 219, 1861.

[On the recommendation of this committee the following resolutions were adopted:]

Resolved, 1. That pastors of congregations be instructed to preach, as soon as convenient, a discourse presenting to their people the claims which the Jews in general, and those of them resident in the United States in particular, have upon the church, and urging the duty of contributing for their special benefit.

3. That, should the state of the treasury warrant such action before the next meeting of the Assembly, the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions be authorized to employ, at such salary as may seem proper, an agent to labor among the Jews in New York, Philadelphia or Cincinnati. Vol. I, p. 439, 1862.

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly hereby expresses its continued interest in the saving conversion of the Jews, and its desire to have the United Presbyterian Church enter upon the work of their evangelization whenever it is believed God has opened up the field and raised up the man or the men to enter in and occupy it.

2. That this Assembly have confidence in Rev. Abraham C. Tris as a minister of Christ and a friend of Israel, and recommend him to the work of visiting the churches and of endeavoring to excite in all who love our Lord Jesus Christ a new or a deeper interest in the salvation of this long outcast and painfully spiritually needy people. Vol. II, p. 13, 1864.

Resolved, 1. That ministers be recommended to preach to our people on the history and condition of the Jews as they illustrate the providence of God, and the fulfillment of prophecy, and upon their prospective conversion and its influence upon the church and the world.

2. That special collections be taken up in all our churches for the establishment of a fund for the mission, and that the supervision of this fund be entrusted to the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions.

3. That Rev. A. C. Tris be appointed to labor as a missionary among the Jews, under the First Presbytery of New York, and that he be paid by the Board of Home Missions at the rate of $800 per annum. Vol. II, p. 168, 1865.

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly recognize it to be our duty as a church, as God gives us ability and opportunity, to seek after the lost sheep of the house of Israel in our midst.

2. That the mission to the Jews be placed under the Board of Home Missions.

3. That Rev. A. C. Tris be assigned to the First Presbytery of New York, to labor especially among the Jews, under the direction of the Presbytery, and that $1,000 be appropriated from the home mission fund for the support of the missionary for the year. Vol. II, p. 315, 1866.

Resolved, 3. That the Jewish mission in the city of New York be for the present abandoned, and Rev. A. C. Tris be referred to the executive committee with a view to employ him as a missionary in a community of Hollanders. Vol. II, p. 410, 1867.

[A paper from the American Christian Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews was referred to a special committee, Vol. III, p. 113, 1870. This committee presented a report which was not adopted. Vol. III, p. 139, 1870.]

XLII. LEGACIES.

1. **Permanent Investment of Legacies.**—Your committee are unanimous in recommending to the different Boards of the church the setting apart of all legacies and bequests as a permanent investment, believing that the ordinary expenses of the Boards should be paid out of the annual contributions of the church; believing also that if such a disposition could be made of bequests, a much larger sum would be given to the Boards; and that in a few years these investments would become endowments. Vol. III, p. 270, 1871.

Resolved, That the Trustees of this Assembly be, and hereby are, instructed to invest any bequest they may receive on behalf of the Assembly, and until otherwise ordered, appropriate the revenues only to the general work of the church. Vol. III, p. 419, 1872.

Resolved, 3. That the bequests now made to this Board [of Home Misssions] be permanently invested, and the interest annually appropriated to the work of the Board. Vol. III, p. 428, 1872.

[A committee was appointed by the Assembly of 1872 to report an answer to the question: "Shall Boards to which bequests are made, invest and use the income only, or at once use the entire legacy?" Vol. III, pp. 416, 417, 1872. This committee presented the following report which was adopted:] All legacies or bequests left to the General Assembly, or any of the Boards of the church, should be held as sacred trusts, and used or disposed of only as directed by the testator; but when left, as is frequently the case, without specific directions to the Trustees of the Assembly or the Boards of the church, such bequests may be used temporarily, until the next meeting of the General Assembly, when all such legacies,

together with all the facts connected with the same, shall be reported to the Assembly, and be subject to its direction and order. Your committee would also express the opinion, that unless urgent exigencies require the immediate use of bequests, they should be invested in undoubted securities, and the interest only used. Vol. III, p. 546, 1873.

Resolved, That hereafter any bequest made to the Board of Home Missions that is not especially designated by the testator for investment may be used to meet the current expenses of the Board. Vol. III, p. 565, 1873.

2. **General Bequests.**—*Resolved*, 1. That when a bequest is made to the General Assembly, or its Trustees, for missionary purposes the Trustees be directed to appropriate it to the Boards of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Freedmen's Missions and Church Extension, in the proportion in which the appropriations were made for these Boards by the preceding General Assembly.

2. That when a bequest is made to the General Assembly without any limitation, it be applied to all the Boards and to the General Assembly's fund, on the same principle. Vol. IV, p. 449, 1877.

XLIII. LICENTIATES.

1. **Licensures to be Reported to the Assembly.**—*Resolved*, That Presbyteries be required to report to each General Assembly the names of persons licensed during the year, and to give account in each case of the number of sessions spent at the theological seminary, and the training given by the Presbytery itself. Vol. III, p. 529, 1873.

[This action was re-affirmed by the Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 184, 1875.]

2. **Licentiates Desiring to Attend the Seminary are to be Released from Appointments.**—*Resolved*, 3. That the Assembly will give no appointments to any licentiate during the sessions, who wishes to attend the seminary.

4. That the Board be authorized to release from his appointments during the period of his attendance at the seminary, any licentiate who desires to secure the benefit of such attendance, provided the Board is able to fill his appointments by other missionaries. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876.

[See also Students.]

XLIV. MANSES.

Whereas, The necessity that each congregation should have a manse is so apparent and so pressing in most cases; therefore,

Resolved, That the Presbyteries under the care of this General Assembly be instructed to inquire of the churches under their care what they have done, or what they propose doing in behalf of this object, and that in order to awaken additional attention to the subject, that the Presbyteries address a pastoral letter to their churches, urging upon the people the necessity of taking early and earnest action to erect manses, and thereby secure comfortable homes for their ministers. Vol. II, p. 298, 1866.

XLV. MARRIAGE.

1. **Marriage with Irreligious Persons.**—*Resolved*, That it is the duty of parents to counsel and warn their children against the formation of such matrimonial connections, and that ministers of the gospel should show from the Scriptures their dangerous tendency, with a diligence proportioned to the danger to which young people are exposed from the social influences with which they are surrounded. Vol. I, p. 224, 1861.

2. **Marriage Within the Forbidden Degrees of Consanguinity.**—*Resolved*, 1. That ministers be instructed to bring this subject before the people in their public ministrations, in order that the purity of the marriage relation be preserved.

2. That Presbyteries and Sessions be directed by the proper exercise of discipline, to enforce the established principles of the Confession, in all cases where marriages have been contracted within the degrees forbidden by the law of God. Vol. II, p. 319, 1866.

[The Session of Cedarville, Presbytery of Xenia, memoralized the Assembly in reference to chapter XXIV, article IV, of the Confession of Faith, requesting such a deliverance as would secure uniformity of action or conformity to the law. The following action was taken:] It is submitted that the law on this subject is specific; that it should be a part of the church's organic law; has recently been re-asserted by the church, and inasmuch as no modification of the law, so as to require re-overture, is asked, but only such a deliverance as would secure consistent action by the inferior courts; therefore,

Resolved, That faithful teaching be enjoined that infractions of the law may be prevented, and that violations of the law be dealt with by Sessions consistently with its spirit and design. Vol. IV, p. 446, 1877

3. **Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Niece.**—*Resolved*, That the foregoing question—is it agreable to the word of God, and the standards of the United Presbyterian Church, for a man to marry his deceased wife's niece?—be answered in the negative. Vol. II, p. 503, 1868.

4. **Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.**—[A Mr. Paden, a member of the congregation of Bethel in the Presbytery of Mercer, having married the sister of his deceased wife, was arraigned by the Session, and the following sentence pronounced: "*Resolved*, That Mr. Paden be admonished before the Session, and that a public intimation of the same be made to the congregation." From this decision, a minority of the Session appealed to the Presbytery. Presbytery sustained the appeal, and instructed the Session of the congregation of Bethel to suspend Mr. Paden from the privileges of the church until he gave evidence of repentance. From this decision an appeal was taken, and the case brought before the First Synod of the West. The Synod sustained the appeal from the decision of the Presbytery. From this decision, certain members of Synod appealed to the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 11, 1869. This appeal from Synod was sustained; ayes, 66; nays, 62. Vol. III, p. 21, 1869.]

5. **Overture with Reference to Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Relatives.**—*Resolved*, That the following question, a definite answer to which, yea or nay, shall be reported to the next General Assembly, be and hereby is transmitted in overture to the Presbyteries of the church, namely: Shall the declaration contained the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chap. XXIV, Sec. 4, "the man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own; nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own," be repealed? Vol. III, p. 26, 1869.

[This overture was rejected by the following vote: Ayes, 127; nays, 536; not voting, 65. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.]

6. **Divorce.**—*Resolved*, That these questions be referred to a select committee, to report to the next Assembly, viz: 1. Does a divorce, secured on the ground of willful desertion, leave the party at liberty to marry again? 2. If not, and yet a member of the church marries such a person in good faith and under the impression that it is entirely lawful, how far should a church court extend forbearance in such a case? Vol. III, p. 17, 1869.

[Majority and minority reports were presented, Vol. III, pp. 408-412, 1872, the former maintaining that "the Scriptures allow but one justifiable cause of divorce," viz: adultery; the latter concluding with the resolution, "that the doctrine of divorce is scripturally exhibited in the teaching of the Westminster Confession on the subject." These reports were referred to the next Assembly, by which their consideration was indefinitely postponed. Vol. III, p. 547, 1873.]

XLVI. MARSHALLS' APPEAL.

[The appellants, Eleanor, Jane L. and Catharine Marshall, were libelled by the Session of the Amity congregation, to which they belonged, for neglect of ordinances. At the time set for trial, the accused sent in papers declining the authority of Session, on the ground of incompetency. Their reasons were deemed groundless by the Session; and the appellants were cited to appear a second time for trial; when they all appeared, and again declined the authority of the Session, and protested against the action of the Session in deciding their declination unwarrantable; and appealed to Presbytery. The accused then left the court, and in their absence they were tried and convicted of the charge contained in the libel. The only question coming before the Presbytery was the competency of the Session to try the case. The Presbytery sustained the Session, regarding it as competent, and the declinature of the accused as unwarrantable. An appeal was taken from the Presbytery to the Synod of Ohio. In Synod the appeal was not sustained, thereby affirming the decision of the Presbytery. From this action an appeal was taken to the Assembly, but the appeal was not sustained, and the concurrent decisions of the lower courts were affirmed. Vol. II, p. 297, 1866. The appellants protested against this action. Having removed from their former place of residence, the Assembly, on the ground that members under suspension are still under the jurisdiction of church courts, passed the following resolutions:]

Resolved, 1. That Eleanor, Jane L. and Catharine Marshall be and hereby are placed under the care of the Session of the First congregation, Monmouth.

2. That the Session of Amity congregation be and hereby is directed to transmit to the Session of the First congregation of Monmouth, all the papers in their possession pertaining to the case. Vol. III, p. 276, 1871.

XLVII. MATHEWS' MEMORIAL.

[Rev. G. D. Mathews presented a memorial, complaining of certain action on the part of the Second Presbytery of New York. The Assembly returned his memorial, on the ground that the Synod of New York was the proper court in which to seek redress. Vol. IV, p. 27, 1874.]

XLVIII. M'CUNE'S CASE.

[Certain Presbyteries brought against Rev. Wm. C. M'Cune, of the First Presbytery of Ohio, the charge of holding and defending fundamental and serious errors on the subject of church fellowship, and in support of their charge, they referred to a book published by him. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the action of the Presbyteries in bringing this matter to the notice of this Assembly be and hereby is approved.

2. That we regard it as inconsistent with that integrity which should characterize the followers of Christ to espouse a profession, and under the garb of that profession to assail its well known and acknowledged principles.

3. That the case of Rev. Wm. C. M'Cune be submitted to the First Presbytery of Ohio, of which he is a member, that proceedings may be, if they are not already, instituted by that Presbytery, for his trials in regard to doctrines which he has taught, or opinions which he has published on the subject of church fellowship, represented to this Assembly by several Presbyteries to be in opposition to our standards, erroneous, and therefore censurable. Vol. II, p. 307, 1866.

[Mr. M'Cune was put on trial, and the case was brought before the next Assembly by the appeal of Rev. Samuel Wilson and others from the decision of the Second Synod, acquitting him. It being shown that the endorsement on the appeal was incorrect, the moderator of the Second Synod was allowed to correct the error, when the case was issued by the Assembly. Vol. II, p. 398, 1867.] The question was then put,—shall the appeal from the decision of the Second Synod of the West, acquitting Rev. W. C. M'Cune of the charge in the first specification, namely: "making determined opposition to one of our distinctive principles, namely, the sixteenth article of the Testimony," be sustained? Ayes, 124; nays, 3; not voting, 7.

Shall the appeal from the decision of the Second Synod of the West, acquitting Mr. M'Cune of "holding and defending serious error on the subject of church fellowship," be sustained? Ayes, 110; nays, 21; not voting, 1.

Shall the appeal from the decision of the Second Synod of the West, acquitting Rev. W. C. M'Cune of "holding and defending fundamental

error on the subject of church fellowship," be sustained? Ayes, 91; nays, 38; not voting, 3.

The vote was then taken *viva voce* on the main question as a whole. The appeal was sustained. Vol. II, pp. 401, 402, 403, 404, 1867.

[The following was adopted as the final disposition of the case:] The Assembly having sustained the appeal of Dr. S. Wilson and others, from the decision of the Second Synod of the West, in the case of Rev. W. C. M'Cune, charged with "holding and defending serious and fundamental error on the subject of church fellowship," hereby reverses the decision of the Synod, and declares said charge proved.

This judgment is not simply because of Mr. M'Cune's interpretation of the 26th chapter of the Confession of Faith, or his "determined opposition" to the sixteenth article of the Testimony, a part of the basis of union on which this church was organized; but also, because of his enunciation and advocacy of principles which, if fully carried out, would work a complete subversion of the church as a visible organization.

By this judgment, Mr. M'Cune is fairly liable to the severe censure of the church. But, in consideration of the facts that he appears to have labored under a misapprehension of what the doctrine and law of his church are on the subject of church fellowship, and that this question is now definitely settled by a judicial decision of her highest court, it is deemed sufficient to remit his case to his Presbytery, with instructions to admonish him that he must respect the authority of the church in this decision, abstain from divisive courses, and follow the things that make for peace. Vol. II, p. 406, 1867.

[A dissent against the legality of the proceedings in the case of Mr. M'Cune was entered, Vol. II, p. 407, 1867, and answered, Vol. II, p. 413, 1867.]

XLIX. MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

1. **Tenderness in Admitting Members.**—In the case of the admission of members, Sessions are affectionately recommended to use great tenderness towards the weak or such as are earnestly inquiring after the truth. Vol. II, p. 31, 1864.

2. **Jurisdiction of Church Courts Over Dismissed Members.**—Have the courts of this church jurisdiction over ministers and members dismissed to other churches, equal to that exercised over ministers and members dismissed to other Presbyteries or congregations of the United Presbyterian Church? As the granting of a certificate of dismission is not the same thing as excommunication, or deposition and excommunication; and as it cannot take the holder of it out of the power of the court which granted it till it has been presented to another court and accepted by it; therfore, *Resolved*, That the above question be answered in the affirmative. Vol. III, p. 158, 1870.

3. **Unpaid Subscriptions of Members Removing from one Congregation to another.**—*Resolved*, That when church

members suffer the pastoral year to expire without withdrawing their names from the subscription list, Sessions are authorized to withhold the certificates of such withdrawing members until they pay all their pecuniary liabilities for the pastor's salary up to the time of their removing, and pay, also, their share of the benevolent contributions of the congregation wherein they are reported in the statistical table as being members. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

L. MINISTERIAL RELIEF, BOARD OF.

1. **Aged Ministers' Fund.**—[On the recommendation of the Board of Home Missions, Vol. I, p. 369, 1862, a committee was appointed to prepare a plan for the establishment of a fund for the support of aged and infirm ministers, Vol. I, p. 345, 1862. This committee presented the following report, which was adopted by the Assembly:]

Resolved, 1. That a fund be created by the General Assembly to be called the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund.

2. That pastors be requested to bring this subject before the people sometime during the year, and that a collection or contribution be sought for its funds.

3. That * * * be a committee to prepare and submit to the next General Assembly a plan for the proper management of this most important matter. Vol. I, p. 347, 1862.

[This committee reported and the Assembly adopted the following plan:] 1. There shall be a fund created for the relief of superannuated and and disabled ministers, and for the help of the indigent widows and families of such as are deceased; said fund to be called the Fund for Superannuated and Disabled Ministers in Need, and for the Destitute Widows and Orphans of Deceased Ministers.

2. This fund shall be raised by contributions which the Synods and Presbyteries are enjoined to see shall be taken up at least once each year in all the churches under the care of the Assembly, and shall be acknowledged in a new column to be added to the table of statistical reports.

3. The fund thus raised shall be placed in the hands of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, to be disbursed only on the recommendation of the Presbyteries having charge of the applicants, and in such amounts as the most judicious discretion shall dictate under a careful examination of all the circumstances of each particular case.

4. That the affairs of this fund may be most conveniently and efficiently managed, the Board of Trustees shall appoint from their number a committee of at least three, who shall reside, if possible, in the same locality. This committee shall receive all applications, decide upon the sums that shall be appropriated according to the state of the funds and the circumstances of the case, give orders on the treasurer for the sum to be paid, and make a full report of their proceedings to the Board of Trustees. The chairman of this committee shall keep this cause as frequently as possible before the churches; and the Board of Trustees shall make an annual report of the state of the fund and of their proceedings in regard to it to the General Assembly.

5. In order that there may ultimately be a permanent fund, and thus have the necessity for annual contributions removed, special donations and legacies are earnestly solicited from all parts of the church, the principal of which shall be invested by the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, and the interest shall be added to the general fund to meet the wants of each year. Vol. II, p. 14, 1864.

[A committee was appointed by the Assembly of 1868 to inquire into the propriety of making provision for the support of indigent widows of deceased ministers, Vol. II, p. 501, 1868. The plan, reported by this committee, was referred to the Presbyteries, Vol. III, p. 34, 1869, and rejected by the following vote: Ayes, 60; nays, 69; not voting, 13. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.]

[The subject was again brought before the Assembly in 1873, when the Board of Ministerial Relief was established. Vol. III, p. 545, 1873.]

2. **Charter of the Board of Ministerial Relief.**—[Granted by the Court of Common Pleas, No. 2, of Philadelphia, Pa., May 8, 1875, recorded in the office for recording deeds for said city in Charter Book No. 2, page 126, &c., and accepted by the General Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 163, 1875.]

The petition of John B. Dales, D. D., W. W. Barr, D. D., James McCandless, John Alexander, Wm. Getty, Wm. Arrott and George B. Shelton, all of the city of Philadelphia, and James Brown, of the city of Pittsburgh, respectfully represents:

1. That the United Presbyterian Church of North America has, by its General Assembly, appointed and constituted your petitioners, together with Henry Harrison, of the city of New York a Board or committee thereof to effectuate the ends hereinafter set forth.

2. That your petitioners, together with the said Henry Harrison, have heretofore, as a voluntary association, performed the trusts imposed upon them by their appointment, as aforesaid.

3. That the business of the said association, or Board would be greatly facilitated by their erection from a voluntary association into a corporation and body politic.

4. That your petitioners therefore desire to avail themselves of the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Approved April 29th, A. D. 1874.

5. That, under the provisions of the said Act, they certify as follows:

I. That the proposed name of the contemplated corporation is "The Board of Ministerial Relief of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

II. That the purpose for which it is formed is the relief of disabled and superannuated ministers, and the widows and orphans of deceased ministers of the said church.

III. That the places of business of the proposed corporation are: First, the city of Philadelphia, and second, such other places as may be designated by the General Assembly of the said church.

IV. That its existence is to be perpetual.

v. That there is no capital stock, and no subscriptions thereto, and consequently your petitioners cannot certify the residences of any such subscribers.

vi. That the number of its directors is nine, three of whom shall be elected annually by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America; the directors for the present year are your petitioners, and the said Henry Harrison, whose names and residences are herein above set forth.

Your petitioners therefore pray, as follows:

i. That your honors will decree, that three or more of the petitioners herein named and named in the certificate of the recorder of deeds, hereunto annexed, having acknowledged this petition as their act and deed, and due proof of the publication of notice of intention to apply for the benefit of the above named act, having been required and heard upon the recording in the office of the recorder of deeds for Philadelphia, as well of this petition and the certificate of acknowledgement thereof, as the decree thereon, your petitioners shall be a corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ii. That the corporate name of the said corporation shall be "The Board of Ministerial Relief of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

iii. That by that name your petitioners and their successors in the above recited trust shall have perpetual succession.

iv. That by that name it shall have power to maintain and defend judicial proceedings.

v. That it shall have power to make and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure.

vi. That it may hold, purchase and transfer such real and personal property as the purposes of the corporation may require, and may receive and hold any and all bequests, devises, or legacies which may be given to it, conditionally or unconditionally, in fee simple, or for a lesser estate; provided that it shall not hold real estate to an amount, the clear yearly value, or income whereof, shall exceed twenty thousand dollars.

vii. That it shall have power to appoint and remove such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the corporation requires, and to allow them a suitable compensation.

viii. That it shall have power to make by-laws, not inconsistent with law, for the management of its property, the regulation of its affairs, and the investment, funding and distribution of its monies.

ix. That it shall have power to enter into any obligation necessary to the transaction of its ordinary affairs.

x. That it shall have all and singular the powers not herein above specified, which may be enjoyed by corporations created under and by virtue of the Act aforesaid. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c. Vol. IV, p. 215, 1875.

3. Constitution of the Board of Ministerial Relief.—[A Constitution for the Board of Ministerial Relief was adopted, Vol. IV, p. 76, 1874; repealed, Vol. IV, p. 183, 1875, and superseded by the general constitution of the Boards and the following new constitution.]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Ministerial Relief of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Philadelphia.

2. The object of this Board shall be the relief of disabled and superannuated ministers, and the widows and orphans of deceased ministers of the United Presbyterian Church.

3. This relief shall be granted only to ministers who are in good standing in the United Presbyterian Church, and to the families, in said church, of ministers who were in such standing at the time of their decease, and, ordinarily, relief shall not be extended to children over sixteen years of age. Vol. IV, p. 25, 1874.

4. **Regulations of the Board of Ministerial Relief.**—[Adopted by the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 183, 1875.]

I. REGULATIONS.—1. This relief shall be granted only to ministers who are in good standing in the United Presbyterian Church, and to the families in said church of ministers who were in such standing at the time of their decease, and ordinarily, it shall not extend to children over sixteen years of age.

2. All applications for relief shall be accompanied by a certified statement endorsed by the Presbytery to which the applicants belong, or in whose bounds they reside, stating the condition and circumstances of the applicants, and every renewal of application shall be accompanied by a similar statement, including any changes that may have occurred during the year, and no appropriations shall be made in any case unless these conditions are complied with.

3. While the responsibility of recommending applicants rests with the Presbyteries, and shall largely govern the action of the Board, yet the Board shall reserve to itself the right to appropriate according to the merits of each case and the state of the treasury.

4. The fund of this Board shall be created by annual contributions from the churches, from endowment donations, and from legacies.

5. All bequests and special donations, when not otherwise designated, shall be invested in a permanent fund.

6. The annual contributions and offerings from churches and individuals, and the interest from the permanent fund, shall form a contingent fund, which shall be used in carrying out the object of the Board.

II. BY-LAWS.—1. The stated meetings of this Board shall be held quarterly, viz.: On the first Tuesday of July, October, January and April.

2. The election of the officers shall be at the first meeting after the General Assembly each year.

3. All moneys paid out by the treasurer shall be on the order of the Board or executive committee, signed by the president and secretary.

4. The following shall be the order of business: 1. Prayer. 2. Reading of the minutes. 3. The report of the executive committee in writing. 4. The correspondence of the secretary. 5 The report of the treasurer in writing. 6. The reports of committees. 7. Applications for relief. 8. Granting of orders. 9. Unfin-

ished business. 10. New business. 11. Adjournment. Vol. IV, p. 76, 1874.

5. **Endowment Fund.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the Assembly establish a permanent endowment fund, and aim, in the course of time, to increase it to the amount of $50,000, including the amount already invested by the Board. Vol. IV, p. 448, 1877.

LI. MINISTERS.

1. **Ministers from other Churches.**—[The following overture was submitted to Presbyteries:] Presbyteries shall carefully examine as to their doctrinal views all ministers and licentiates from other denominations applying for admission to this church, and they shall subject those admitted from foreign churches to a probation of not less than six months, previous to their settlement over any congregation. Vol. I, p. 358, 1862.

[The vote on this overture was, ayes, 411; nays, 56; not voting, 7. Vol. I, p. 490, 1863.]

2. **Ministers Supplying in Vacancies.**—*Resolved*, 2. That ministers and licentiates be and hereby are forbidden to make any arrangements with congregations for preaching, except through the Presbytery under whose care such congregation may be. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876.

3. **Rights of Unemployed Ministers.**—The rights and privileges, pertaining to the ministerial office, are not founded on the exercise of that office. By ordination to the office of the ministry, authority to govern as well as to teach is conferred. The non-exercise of the right to teach does not in any way affect the right to govern. Vol. IV, 440, 1877.

LII. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. **Compensation for Superintending the Publication of the Minutes.**—One hundred dollars were appropriated to the committee to superintend the printing and publication of the Minutes. Vol. II, p. 321, 1866.

Resolved, That the clerks of the General Assembly be authorized to expend a sum, not exceeding $50, for the revision of the Minutes of the General Assembly. Vol. III, p. 535, 1873.

2. **The Minutes to be Published by the Board of Publication.**—*Resolved*, 1. That hereafter the publication of the Minutes be committed to the Board of Publication, and that, under the superintendence of the clerks of the Assembly, they be issued in the name of the Board, in the same way as are other publications. Vol. III, p. 33, 1869.

Resolved, 3. That the publication of Minutes of the General Assembly be committed to the Board of Publication, the size of the edition to be issued, and the price per copy to be left to the discretion of the Board. Vol. III, p. 281, 1871.

3. **An Index of the Minutes to be Prepared by the Clerks.**—*Resolved*, 2. That, hereafter, a full index of each number of the Minutes be prepared on the same plan, by the clerks of the Assembly, and appended, and a general index at the close of each volume. Vol. II, p. 511, 1868.

4. **The Minutes Not to be Transcribed.**—[Resolutions with reference to transcribing the Minutes were presented to the Assembly of 1871, Vol. III, p. 285. They were referred to the clerks of the Assembly, with instruction to take legal advice thereto and report to the next Assembly. This legal advice was reported to the Assembly, Vol. III, pp. 379, 380, 1872, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the principal clerk be not required, after the present meeting, to transcribe the Minutes into a book prepared for that purpose.

2. That, instead thereof, he be directed to certify, over his own signature, to the correctness of at least ten copies of the printed Minutes; one to be preserved among the archives of the Assembly as the official copy, and one to be deposited in the library of each of our theological seminaries.

3. That the Synods under the care of the Assembly be authorized, if in their judgment they think it best, to make a printed copy of their minutes, certified by the signature of the clerk, the official copy of their minutes. Vol. III, p. 380, 1872.

5. **Copies of the Minutes to be Furnished Gratuitously.**—*Resolved*, 2. That a copy be furnished annually and gratuitously to each foreign missionary, to the corresponding secretaries of the several Boards of the church, and to the library of each theological seminary and college. Vol. III, p. 33, 1869.

Resolved, 8. That it be a standing rule that copies of the Minutes be furnished gratuitously to the clerks of Synods and Presbyteries, to financial agents and superintendents of missions, and to the delegates of corresponding churches, and that the expense thereof be paid from the funds appropriated to the Board of Publication Vol. IV, p. 33, 1874.

LIII. MISSIONARY PRESBYTERIES.

The Relation of Missionary Presbyteries to the Assembly.—WHEREAS, The subordination and supervision of church courts constitute a fundamental principle of Presbyterianism; and,

WHEREAS, Our foreign missionary Presbyteries, and the Presbyteries of Oregon and San Francisco are not related to any Synod, and are not subject to have their proceedings reviewed by such a court; therefore,

Resolved, That our foreign missionary Presbyteries and the Presbyteries of Oregon and San Francisco stand in the same relation to the General Assembly as that in which any Presbytery at home stands to its Synod, and that these Presbyteries henceforth be required to send up certified copies of their minutes annually to the

General Assembly for revision; but it is understood that in cases of discipline, appeals cannot be entertained. Vol. IV, p. 189, 1875. [This paper was laid on the table.]

[See also Oregon, Presbytery of.]

LIV. NARRATIVE AND STATE OF RELIGION.

1. **Standing Committee on Narrative and State of Religion.**—See Rules of Order.

2. **Permanent Committee on Narrative and State of Religion**—*Resolved*, That the rule requiring the appointment of a committee on the Narrative and State of Religion, soon after the opening of each Assembly, be suspended; and that such committee shall be appointed before each Assembly rises; and that this committee shall have under consideration, during the entire year, the condition, tendencies and development of the spiritual life of the church, and shall report to the next Assembly; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of this committee their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later than the first day of May, of each year. Vol. III, p. 158, 1870.

Resolved, 2. That the action of the Assembly of 1870, relative to committees on Narrative and State of Religion, be hereby rescinded.

3. That the rule defining the duties of the committee on Narrative and State of Religion be so amended as to require said committee to report to the General Assembly following its appointment; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of said committee, their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later than the first day of May, each year. Vol. III, p. 518, 1873.

3. **Blanks for a Report on Narrative and State of Religion.**—*Resolved*, That the clerk of the Assembly be directed to prepare a printed blank formula of report on Narrative and State of Religion, embodying the topics to which allusion has been made above, together with such others as may be thought desirable; and forward two blanks to the clerk of each Presbytery, one of which the Presbytery shall be required to fill and return to the Assembly at its annual meeting. Vol. II, p. 504, 1868.

Resolved, 2. That the permanent committee on Narrative and State of Religion be instructed to prepare and distribute, through the second clerk of the Assembly, not later than the first of February, 1875, blank reports for congregations and Presbyteries, to be filled up with such facts and figures as will enable the committee to make a full and satisfactory report to the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 15, 1874.

LV. OLD RECORDS.

1. **The Board of Publication to Secure and Publish Old Records.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the Board of Publication be instructed

to secure the records of the Associate Presbyterian, and of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches, and United Presbyterian Church.

2. That the Board be instructed to arrange for the publication of so much of these records as may be deemed of general utility, and to publish them as soon as the funds can be procured for defraying the expenses.

3. That the Board be instructed to obtain all the material that they can for a complete history of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 223, 1861.

2. **A Permanent Committee Appointed to Collect and Deposit Old Records.**—*Resolved*, 6. That in order to preserve the various records of the church from being scattered and lost, a committee * * * be appointed to collect and deposit in some safe and convenient place: 1. The records of the Associate and Associate Reformed Presbyteries and Synods as far as practicable. 2. The records of Presbyteries which have been dissolved. 3. All documents pertaining to the history of our church. Vol. III, p. 396, 1872.

Resolved, 2. That this committee be authorized to receive and receipt for all the records of Synods and Presbyteries formerly in connection with the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches which have been dissolved, and that all persons in possession of these records be requested to forward them at once to the chairman, or some member of the committee.

4. That this committee be directed to deposit such records and historical documents as come into its hands, in the safe of the United Presbyterian book rooms, in the city of Pittsburgh, and that the superintendent of these rooms be charged with their proper care and keeping.

5. That this committee be authorized to receive as a donation, or to purchase such historical documents as in the judgment of a majority of its members are necessary to preserve a knowledge of the planting, growth, labors and struggles of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches in this country, with a view to furnishing materials for future history, and for affecting said purchases be authorized to draw through the principal clerk upon the treasurer of the Assembly to an amount not exceeding $75.00, as these purchases may be made. Vol. III, p. 517, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That the records now on hand, and those which may be hereafter procured, be placed in the fire-proof building of the Presbyterian Historical Society, when it shall be completed, for safe keeping, and that a copy of all those which may be printed be placed in our own publishing house. Vol. IV, p. 301, 1876.

[The permanent committee on the preservation of old records reported as follows: Vol. III, p. 516, 1873; Vol. IV, p. 37, 1874; Vol. IV, p. 227, 1875; Vol. IV, p. 359, 1876, Vol. IV, p. 491, 1877; Vol. IV, p. 630, 1878.]

3. **Records of Associate and Associate Reformed Presbyteries and Synods.**—[A list of these records and of the persons holding them, is to be found, Vol. IV, p. 631, 1878.]

LVI. OREGON, PRESBYTERY OF.

The Presbytery of Oregon Recognized as a Part of the United Presbyterian Church.—The Presbytery of Oregon signify their cordial reception of the Testimony and other doctrinal standards of the United Presbyterian Church; but, owing to their remote position, they reserve the right of final jurisdiction over all matters, except such as may be appealed directly to the General Assembly; and, moreover, reserve the right of sending delegates to the General Assembly, as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, That the General Assembly cordially acquiesce in the proposal of the Presbytery of Oregon, and regard it as one of the Presbyteries under its care. Vol. I, p. 107, 1860.

LVII. OVERTURES.

A two-thirds Vote Necessary to Send Any Matter to the Presbyteries in Overture.—*Resolved*, 2. That in order to prevent and remedy this evil, the Assembly do adopt it as a rule of procedure for the future: that no subject shall be handed down in overture to the Presbyteries, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.

LVIII. PASTORS.

How a Pastor may be Called and Installed in an Isolated Congregation.—The Session of the congregation of San Francisco ask to be advised in the steps they shall take in making out a call, as they wish Mr. Gibson, your missionary, to become their permanent pastor. Owing to the facts that this congregation is not under the care of any Presbytery; the person of their choice is laboring in their midst; and that he is the only ordained minister you have within hundreds of miles of them; your committee are of opinion that a somewhat unusual course should be taken in the case.

Your committee think that upon placing this congregation under the Presbytery of most convenient access, that Presbytery might either appoint Mr. Gibson himself to moderate in the call, or authorize some one of the ruling elders of that congregation to do so, and that, upon receiving and sustaining that call, and receiving by letter Mr. Gibson's acceptance of the call, the Presbytery might declare him the settled pastor of said congregation. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That the congregation of San Francisco be placed under the care of the United Presbyterian Presbytery of Oregon.

2. That this Presbytery be directed to take measures, as soon as practicable, to consummate the wishes of the congregation. Vol. II, p. 397, 1867.

LIX. PEACE.

International Arbitration.—*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the church, and especially of the ministers of the gospel, to labor in every proper way for the advancement of the cause of peace, and

that we hail with heartfelt gratitude the effort now being put forth both in this country and in Europe, by eminent Christian statesmen and philanthropists, to provide a system of international arbitration for the settlement of difficulties that may arise between nations, and that we hereby pledge to our own government our hearty sympathy and co-operation in all proper efforts for securing this glorious result. Vol. IV, p. 319, 1876.

LX. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Union of Presbyterian Churches.—[On the memorial of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, delegates were appointed to a convention for prayer and conference on the subject of union among the various branches of the Presbyterian family. Vol. II, p. 404, 1867. The proceedings of this convention were laid before the Assembly, when five delegates were appointed to meet with a like number appointed by the other churches, with instructions to endeavor to obtain such terms of union as would not involve any relinquishment of the principles of our profession. Vol. II, p. 493, 1868. The joint committee, composed of delegates from the United Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church, N. S., and the Presbyterian Church, O. S., adopted the following basis, which was submitted to the Assemblies:]

1. The Old and New Testament Scriptures are acknowledged to be the inspired word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. The Westminster Confession of Faith, as the same has been modified by the churches here represented, in its doctrines concerning the powers of the civil magistrate, together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms shall be received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures.

3. The United Church shall receive and adopt the Presbyterian form of church government.

4. *First*, It is the will of God that the Book of Psalms should be used by the church in his worship to the end of the world. And the united body shall, at the earliest practicable day, prepare as faithful and acceptable a version of those Psalms as may be, for use in the churches.

Secondly, Any of the churches desiring to use the Psalms exclusively in the service of song shall always have the right, unchallenged, to do so. Vol. III, p. 29, 1869.

[The following action was taken by the Assembly:] WHEREAS, in the negotiations between the United and the Old and New School Presbyterian Churches, a Christian spirit has been manifested, and also an evidently increasing regard for the distinctive principles of the United Presbyterian Church; and,

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is not prepared to adopt the basis of union presented by the joint committee, yet in the confidence that a mutual interchange of views in a truly Christian spirit would be productive of much good; therefore,

Resolved, That, without expressing approval of all the results, and while regarding as seriously defective at least one of the con-

clusions, namely, that pertaining to Psalmody, reached by the joint committee, a report of whose proceedings has been submitted to us, this Assembly agree to continue their committee to confer, according to instructions given by the last Assembly, with similar committees which may be appointed by other branches of the Presbyterian family. Vol. III, p. 29, 1869.

[The joint committee failed to meet.] On the fourth of August, the time appointed by the preceding convention, a meeting was held in Pittsburgh. On this occasion a majority of the committee of the United Presbyterian Church were present, but only one member of the Old School, and not one of the New School Presbyterian Church, were in attendance. In consequence of the failure of our brethren to attend at the time appointed, nothing could be done. The convention consequently adjourned *sine die*. Vol. III, p. 132, 1870.

[Another committee was appointed, Vol. III, p. 145, 1870, who reported as follows:] The joint committee met in Pittsburgh, March 7th, 1871, and continued in session until the ninth. A most delightful spirit pervaded the devotional exercises of the committee, and the very full and free discussions had with reference to the points of difference between the two bodies were characterized by the utmost friendliness and cordiality.

In one of the early conferences the United Presbyterian branch of the committee submitted the following as a basis of union:

The Westminster standards as the general basis, with these additional propositions:

1. The Psalms of the Bible, in the best possible version, are to be the authorized Psalmody of the church.

2. In all ordinary cases, the sacraments are to be restricted in their administration, to those over whom the church has authority.

3. All associations, whether formed for political or benevolent purposes, which impose upon their members an oath of secresy, or an obligation to obey a code of unknown laws, are inconsistent with the spirit and genius of Christianity, and church members ought not to have fellowship with such associations.

After some consideration given to the subject matter of this basis, it was referred to the Presbyterian branch of the committee, who subsequently reported, recommending the following as general terms of union:

The Westminster standards as the general basis, with these additional propositions:

1. That we regard the "Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs" of the Bible as peculiarly entitled to our consideration and use in public and private worship, because of their divine inspiration; and we re-affirm our testimony in their favor as authorized by the word of God.

2. That in all ordinary cases, the sacraments are to be restricted in their administration to those over whom the church has authority.

3. That the genius and spirit of Christianity furnish the best incentive, the highest motive, and the truest basis for all work of benevolence and reform, and that the church, in her organized

capacity, is the most efficient agent for the prosecution of this work, and should be preferred by all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was finally and unanimously decided in joint committee, in view of the impossibility of fully reconciling divergent views that the two bases be submitted to the respective Assemblies.

In thus submitting our report, your committee would say, that while unable to come to a perfect agreement on the propositions before us, we were greatly gratified and encouraged by the nearness to an agreement at which we arrived, and we do most earnestly commend the union of our churches to the continued consideration of our Assemblies. With this view, we recommend the appointment of committees for further conference and negotiations on the subject, with such instructions accompanying the appointment as by the Assemblies may be deemed desirable. Vol. III, p. 313, 1871.

[No action was taken by the Assembly, except to appoint a committee to continue negotiations, Vol. III, p. 284, 1871. This committee reported to the next Assembly, Vol. III, p. 380, 1872, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That in the judgment of this General Assembly there do not appear to be encouraging grounds for a further prosecution of this work at present.

2. That this General Assembly hereby declares again its desire for union with sister churches on any proper grounds that will be mutually satisfactory, and is ready to co-operate, especially with the Presbyterian Church in any proper effort to secure such a union to the glory of our common Saviour, and the greater prosperity and good of his cause in the world.

3. That with this expression on the general subject of union, and of the facts in the case as they are understood by this Assembly, the committee on union shall be continued, to meet with any similar committee that may be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to engage in any further conferences that may be called for on this subject. Vol. III, p. 394, 1872.

LXI. PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

A Committee Appointed to Attend an Ecumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches.—*Resolved*, 1. That there be appointed a committee to confer with the other committees which may be appointed by the Presbyterian bodies, with a view to securing the objects proposed; and,

2. That, while doing all they can to secure these objects, the committee be directed to do nothing to compromise the peculiar principles and practices, for the maintainance of which this Assembly believes herself called upon, in providence and by the Head of the Church, to sustain a separate ecclesiastical organization. Vol. IV, p. 37, 1874.

[This committee reported to the Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 2. That the Assembly expresses its gratitude to the Saviour for the harmony he has given to the deliberations of these

committees, and its conviction that this agreement in a statement of revealed truth so full as that contained in the propositions adopted, is a precursor of a closer union among the churches holding the great doctrines of the Bible. Vol. IV, p. 186, 1875.

WHEREAS, Several churches adhering to Presbyterian polity and Calvinistic doctrine are, on conscientious grounds, opposed to the use of uninspired hymns in the worship of God; and, whereas, the inspired Book of Psalms has been acknowledged by every branch of the Church of Christ, at least by every Presbyterian one, to contain matter suitable for praise in the service of song; and, whereas, the exclusive use of the hymns embraced in this sacred collection by the proposed confederation in its meetings would not only evince a generous regard for the cherished convictions of many Presbyterians, but also, it is believed, tend to prove and promote the unity of the Church of Christ; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly respectfully, but earnestly, asks that in the particular referred to, the "Consensus of the Reformed Churches" be respected by the confederation in its devotional exercises, and that a specific guarantee to this effect be incorporated in the constitution which may be adopted.

2. Further, that our committee be directed to urge this matter by letter, or otherwise, in the convention about to be held in London. Vol. IV, p. 186, 1875.

[The delegates reported that they had forwarded the above action to the Alliance, and submitted to the Assembly the correspondence had, Vol. IV, p. 356, 1876, when their action was approved, Vol. IV, p. 318, 1876.]

[Delegates were appointed to the First General Presbyterian Council, Vol. IV, p. 455, 1877, who reported to the Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 635, 1878, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 2. That while gratified to know that during the late meeting the Council used in its exercise of praise only the Psalms of Scripture, the Assembly regrets that no constitutional provision has been made for the continuance of this practice, and no definite pledge given to that effect, and hereby instructs its delegates to the meeting of 1880 to use their influence to have this matter adjusted in accordance with the action of the Assembly of 1875. Vol. IV, p. 576, 1878.

[A committee was appointed to nominate delegates to the Second General Presbyterian Council. Vol. IV, p. 576, 1878.]

[A constitution for the Presbyterian Alliance, adopted by the American delegates, was published, Vol. IV, p. 225, 1875.]

LXII. PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1. **Presbyterian Historical Society.**—*Resolved*, That the Assembly cordially commends the society to the enlarged liberality of all our churches and congregations. Vol. II, p. 12, 1864.

Resolved, That a copy of each of the publications of our Board of Publication be presented to this society to be preserved in its collection. Vol. III, p. 545, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That the records now on hand, and those which may be hereafter procured, be placed in the fire proof building of the Presbyterian Historical Society, when it shall be completed, for safe keeping, and that a copy of all those which may be printed be placed in our own publishing house.

3. That Presbyteries be requested to collect the histories of their own congregations, and have them bound in one or more volumes, with the history of the Presbytery, with a view of depositing them in the fire proof building already mentioned. Vol. IV, p. 301, 1876.

Resolved, 2. That we earnestly recommend every congregation which has not already contributed to its funds, to take up, on the first Sabbath of November, 1877, or as soon after as possible, a liberal collection to aid in securing for this society what it most needs; namely, a place of safety for what it has so successfully gathered. Vol. IV, p. 446, 1877.

Resolved, 2. That it be commended still to our people for donations to its collections, and for funds for its endowment. Vol. IV, p. 574, 1878.

2. **United Presbyterian Historical Society.**—*Resolved*, 5. That this Assembly recommend the formation of a United Presbyterian Historical Society, and hereby authorize the committee on old records to organize such a society and report to the next Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 595, 1878.

LXIII. PSALMS.

1. **Ministers are not to Sanction Human Compositions in the Matter of Praise.**—Is it consistent with our standards for our ministers to enter into any arrangements to unite in the public or social worship of God, where human compositions are employed as the matter of praise? It is not consistent with our profession to enter into any arrangements by which we may, in any sense, sanction or approve of the use of human composition in the worship of God. Vol. I, p. 114, 1860.

2. **Paraphrases are not to be used as Songs of Praise in the Worship of God.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the use of paraphrases as songs of praise in the worship of God is not consistent with the principles and usages of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. III, p. 419, 1872.

3. **An Amended Version of the Psalms.**—*Resolved*, That the Board of Publication be authorized to prepare a revised edition of the metrical version of the Psalms now in use. Vol. I, p. 41, 1859.

[The Board of Publication presented versions of the Psalms to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That * * * be a committee, with the Board of Publication, on the subject of revising the present version of the Psalms.

2. That the whole subject of a revised edition of the Psalms be referred to the Board of Publication thus strengthened, that they

publish the version as amended, and that they report to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 114, 1860.

[The report of this committee was brought before the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That we highly approve the labors of this committee, and hereby send their amended version in overture to the Presbyteries under our care.

2. That in reporting on this overture, the Presbyteries are instructed to report to the next General Assembly: 1. On the overture, aye or no. 2. That should any Presbytery have objections to the amended version, they shall specify particularly to the General Assembly the grounds of their objection, and should they desire any amendments or alterations, they shall make them in their own language.

3. That Presbyteries having objections or desiring alterations or amendments, shall communicate them to the committee on an improved version of the Psalms before the first of February, 1862; and that the committee be directed to take such suggestions into careful consideration, and embody such as meet their approbation into their report in full, to the next General Assembly for adoption, should the Assembly approve them. Vol. I, p. 221, 1861.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:] It appears: 1. That the amended version of the Psalms overtured to the church is not adopted. 2. That a decided majority of Presbyteries are in favor of proceeding with the present effort under proper restrictions. In view of these conclusions:

Resolved, 1. That the General Assembly refer the amended version of the Psalms to a select committee, consisting of three members.

2. That the committee be limited in the amendments which they shall propose to the removal of obsolete words, the correction of errors in grammar, errors of punctuation, and defective lines.

3. That this committee be instructed to report to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 349, 1862.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly express their thanks to the committee for their services, and the progress made by them in improving our version of the Psalms.

2. That the proposed amendments be re-committed to the same committee, with instructions to report to the next Assembly.

3. That the Presbyteries be directed to forward to the committee such suggestions as may aid them in their work. Vol. I, p. 498, 1863.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the amendments proposed by the committee on amending the present version of the Psalms, together with those adopted at this meeting of the Assembly, be and they hereby are overtured to the Presbyteries for their consideration, with instructions to report thereon to the committee before January, 1865.

2. That Presbyteries be directed to report to said committee such amendments as they would desire to have made, whether these have been proposed by the committee or not.

3. That Presbyteries be further instructed to report yea or nay, whether they would be willing to accept of the version as amended by the committee and Assembly, in case such additional amendments as may be suggested should not be adopted.

5. That the committee on amending our present version of the Psalms have our hearty thanks, that they be continued, and that they are hereby instructed to prosecute their work until they have amended the whole of the version, and report to the next Assembly. Vol. II, p. 36, 1864.

[This overtured version was not adopted. Yeas, 56; nays, 126. Vol. II, p. 160, 1865.

[An amended version of the Psalms was published by the Board of Publication, concerning which the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the corrected edition of the authorized version of the Book of Psalms published by the Board of Publication, and laid on the table of this Assembly, be approved as the standard edition of our authorized Psalter.

2. That while approving of this book, the Assembly desires to express its regret that the Board should have made this publication without the direction of the Assembly.

3. That the Board be directed not to proceed with the publication of the proposed series of Psalm Books, until it receives further direction from the Assembly. Vol. II, p. 165, 1865.

Resolved, 6. That the Board of Publication be directed to complete the work of amending the present version, according to the plan partially executed and approved by the Assembly at Washington, Iowa, in 1865. Vol. II, p. 490, 1868.

Resolved, That * * * be appointed a committee to complete the work of preparing an amended version of the Psalms, as committed to the Board of Publication by the last Assembly, and report their amendments to the next Assembly. Vol. III, p. 35, 1869.

Your committee, however, are of opinion that they [the amendments proposed to the old version] are more numerous than is desirable or necessary; and as great care should be taken not to impair the integrity of our present excellent version, or unnecessarily to change language dear and familiar to so many, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, * * * to which these amendments shall be referred, with instructions to use them according to their best judgment, in amending the text of the present version in such a way as shall not impair its identity; and farther, that they have authority to incorporate and publish an edition of the same as the authorized version. Vol. III, p. 144, 1870.

Resolved, 3. That said committee, with the Board of Publication, be directed to publish, at as early a day as possible, an edition of the present version, when amended as proposed above, with the new versions inserted in their proper places. Vol. III, p. 145, 1870.

Resolved, 1. That the revised edition of the present version of the Psalms and the new versions, published in the same volume, by direction of the Twelfth General Assembly, be authorized to be used according to the action of that Assembly.

2. That the committee are entitled to the thanks of the Assembly, and the church, for the faithfulness and ability with which their duty has been performed.

4. That the present committee, * * * * be continued to supervise and correct any typographical and verbal inaccuracies that may occur in the publication of this authorized edition. Vol. III, p. 284, 1871.

4. **A New Version of the Psalms.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the version of the Book of Psalms now used by the United Presbyterian Church be retained without any change that would affect its integrity.

2. That to be used in connection with this, it is desirable to have an entirely new version of equal fidelity, and up to the present state of literature and laws of versification.

3. That a committee be appointed to take charge of this work, and either by selections from versions extant, or the labors of a competent person, endeavor to have such a version in readiness to report to the next Assembly; that in this work, they be instructed to make fidelity to the original an object of special attention; and that, as they progress, they publish the results of their labors in the periodicals of the church.

4. That this version, when reported to the Assembly, if deemed worthy, shall be overtured to the Presbyteries. Vol. I, p. 36, 1859.

Resolved, That the committee on the preparation of a new version of the Psalms be instructed to correspond with the other churches who use the Book of Psalms, and endeavor to secure their co-operation. Vol. I, p. 36, 1859.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That * * * be a committee, and they be authorized to complete the work assigned them, and report to the next Assembly.

2. That in the meantime they shall publish the result of their labors in cheap pamphlet form, for the examination of the church. Vol. I, p. 120, 1860.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly that they had prepared new versions of sixty-seven Psalms, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the new and improved version of a portion of the Book of Psalms, prepared by the committee appointed by the General Assembly of 1860, be overtured to the Presbyteries under our care.

2. That Presbyteries be instructed to examine it carefully and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 223, 1861.

[The Assembly of 1862 instructed this committee to report progress to the next Assembly, Vol. I, p. 365, 1862. To the next Assembly the committee reported that they had prepared fifteen

new versions, when they were continued, enlarged, and instructed to publish specimens of the versions prepared by them. Vol. I, p. 495, 1863. The committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the further consideration of this version of fifteen Psalms be postponed till the question of the copyright of Abner Jones is satisfactorily settled. Vol. II, p. 27, 1864.

[Owing to the difficulty with Prof. Abner Jones concerning his copyright, a new committee was appointed, and the work of preparing a new version of the Psalms was begun anew:]

Resolved, 1. That * * * be appointed a committee to take charge of the preparation of a new version; that they be empowered to offer premiums for the best versions of Psalms, and take such other measures as they may deem proper for attaining the end contemplated; and that they report to each successive Assembly such versions of any of the Psalms as they may judge suitable, which, when approved by the church, shall be inserted in the Psalm Book, and be authorized to be sung in the worship of God.

2. That each Synod be requested to appoint, at its first meeting, one or two of its own members to act as corresponding and consultative members of this committee.

3. That this committee be enjoined to meet at their earliest convenience, and prosecute their labors with diligence; their respective Presbyteries, when necessary, supplying their pulpits in their absence. Vol. II, p. 37, 1864.

[This committee reported that they had prepared versions of sixty-three Psalms, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly highly approves the manner in which the committee intrusted with the preparation of a new metrical version of the Psalms has performed its work.

2. That in considering the versions of Psalms reported by this committee, the Assembly will proceed as follows: The moderator shall announce each version, beginning with the first; any member may move to strike out the version announced; if the motion prevail, the particular version under consideration shall be rejected; if not, or if no motion to reject be made, the version shall be declared approved.

3. That the versions now approved by the Assembly, viz: All contained in the volume published by the committee on the preparation of a new version, be and hereby are overtured to the Presbyteries for their approval or rejection.

4. That the Presbyteries be and hereby are instructed as follows: First. To act on this overture as early as possible, before the fifteenth day of September next, at farthest, and to call special meetings for the purpose. Second. To vote aye or no on each version of a Psalm now overtured. Third. To communicate their action, without delay, to the moderator, specifying particularly their objections to the versions they may reject. Fourth. To report to the next Assembly

5. That the moderator be instructed to count the votes received by him and transmit on or before October 1, the result, together

with the objections of the Presbyteries to rejected versions, to the committee on the preparation of a new version.

6. That the Assembly, earnestly desiring the completion of the work, and being persuaded that the versions now in overture will receive the approval of the church, do hereby call upon the committee above mentioned to proceed, without delay, in the preparation of new versions of the remaining Psalms, and publish the result of their labors as soon as possible.

7. That such versions as may be thus published by the committee be and hereby are overtured to the Presbyteries for their adoption or rejection.

8. That Presbyteries be and hereby are instructed as follows: First. To vote aye or no on each version of a Psalm thus published. Second. To communicate their objections to such versions as they may reject, to the committee. Third. To report to the next Assembly.

9. That the Assembly hereby declares its earnest desire that the committee on the new version, the Presbyteries, and the next Assembly, will give the whole subject such prompt, earnest and careful attention, as shall be necessary to bring the work to a speedy close, and furnish the church with a complete version suited to its wants.

11. That the Presbyteries be instructed to supply the pulpits of such of their members as are members of this committee while engaged in the work assigned them by the Assembly. Vol. II, p. 149, 1865.

[At the next Assembly, the vote of the Presbyteries on the overtured Psalms was counted, and the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the twenty-five versions, specified in the list as having a majority of three-fourths of the votes cast, be adopted, as amended by the committee.

2. That the versions which the Assembly shall not adopt at this meeting, except the fourteen specified in the list as rejected, be continued in overture until the meeting of the next General Assembly, together with the amendments adopted by the committee; and also the second volume be continued in overture.

3. That any versions which may be approved by this Assembly shall be considered subject to amendment until the whole work of preparing a new version is finally completed.

4. That any version finally receiving the sanction of the church shall be incorporated and published with the present authorized version.

5. That it be distinctly stated by this Assembly that, in adopting a portion of the versions in overture, it is not intended to set aside the use of the present authorized version or any part of it, nor is it intended to require the introduction of the new versions into any congregation, nor even to encourage the introduction of them when this would be offensive to the people, or any considerable portion of them. It is also earnestly recommended to pastors and Sessions to do nothing rashly in this matter whereby the peace of congregations might be marred.

6. That the present committee to prepare a new version be released in compliance with their request, and that a special com-

mittee be appointed to nominate the members of a new committee. Vol. II, p. 306, 1866.

[This commiitee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That all the versions of volume first, excepting seven, which have majorities below fifty, be adopted.

2. That these seven be referred to the committee to be amended, and that they then be sent down to the Presbyteries in overture.

3. That the amendments proposed by the committee be referred to the Assembly for their decision.

4. That all the versions adopted by the Assembly be still subject to amendments, and that Presbyteries be asked to send any alterations they feel ought to be made, to the chairman of the committee on the new version of the Psalms. Vol. II, p. 416, 1867.

Resolved, 1. That * * * be and hereby are appointed a committee to canvass and publish the votes of the Presbyteries on the overture of the new version of volume second.

2. That all the reports of Presbyteries now on the table of this Assembly be placed in the hands of the aforesaid committee.

3. That this committee be directed to procure, as soon and as far as practicable, the reports of Presbyteries on the second volume of new versions now among the papers of the last Assembly.

4. That the chairman of said committee having ascertained the Presbyteries from which there is no report, he hereby is directed to notify the moderator or clerk of such Presbyteries, and call for their reports.

5. That all Presbyteries which have sent up their reports have leave to amend them, if they so desire.

6. That the committee close the reception of reports on the second volume of new versions, on the first day of November, 1867, and all Presbyteries which desire their voice to be heard in the decision must have their reports in by that date.

7. That on the first of November, proximo, the committee shall proceed to canvass and make up the vote on each version, and shall publish in the papers of the church the numbers of all the versions which shall have received a majority of two-thirds and over of the votes cast on each version.

8. That all versions of Psalms in the second volume thus sanctioned by such votes, shall, as soon as officially announced by the chairman of said committee, be held as authorized in the worship of the church.

9. That the committee prepare such versions as are adopted for publication, in pamphlet form, by the Board of Publication. Vol. II, p. 414, 1867.

[At the next Assembly the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to which shall be referred the versions of Psalms in the second volume prepared by the committee, with instructions to select out of those having a majority over fifty such as appear to be least liable to objection, and report the same to this Assembly, with a view to their being adopted, as authorized to be used in the worship of God. Vol. II, p. 502, 1868.

[At the recommendation of this committee sixteen versions were adopted. Vol. II, p. 508, 1868.]

[The following action was also taken:]

Resolved, 2. That * * * be and hereby are appointed a committee on revision, to which the versions now adopted shall be referred, for such modifications and amendments as they may think needful.

3. That the above committee report the result of their labors to the next Assembly for its action.

4. That * * * constitute the committee on versification.

5. That the versions overtured last year, and not adopted, be recommitted to said committee, with instructions to revise carefully twenty versions and present them to the next General Assembly for overture to Presbyteries. Vol. II, p. 490, 1868.

[The committee on versification reported to the next Assembly that they had prepared twenty-eight additional versions, which were overtured to Presbyteries. Vol. III, p. 15, 1869. These twenty-eight versions, with four exceptions, received the requisite majority, and were declared adopted. Vol. III, p. 145, 1870.]

[A committee was appointed to revise the versions already adopted. On the report of this committee, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That the corrections and emendations reported be referred to a committee of five, * * * with instructions to embody them, as their judgment may dictate, in a collection of versions to be published as soon as possible.

2. That the Assembly concur with the recommendation of the committee, except in regard to Psalm VI, 8s and 7s, and agree to strike out or rescind the action of former Assemblies adopting the following versions, namely: Psalms XX, C. M.; XXXIX, L. M., six lines; XLIII, L. M.; LXXXIX, L. M.; CXXXVII, L. M., and CXLVI, L. M., six lines; as being either altogether unnecessary, or not as faithful translations as others that have been adopted, or as faithful as can be made of these Psalms; and that the committee be directed to carry out this in preparing the next edition for publication. Vol. III, p. 144, 1870.

Resolved, That the work of preparing new versions be discontinued for the present. Vol. III, p. 144, 1870.

[The committee on versification, appointed by the Assembly of 1869, reported that thay had prepared thirty-three new versions, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That, excepting the versions of Psalms XXXII, L. M., and LXXII, 10s, they be sent down in overture to the Presbyteries, with instructions to report their judgment, yea or nay, to Dr. Beveridge, the chairman of the committee of five, already named, not later than December 1, 1870; and that they regard all having a majority of two-thirds as adopted.

2. That said committee be authorized to count the votes, and incorporate those adopted with the new versions already approved.

3. That said committee, with the Board of Publication, be directed to publish, at as early a day as possible, an edition of the present version when amended, with the new versions inserted in their proper places,

4. That the Board of Publication be directed to publish the overtured versions as speedily as possible, and transmit to the clerks of Presbyteries a sufficient number of copies to supply the ministers and elders of each Presbytery respectively. Vol. III, p. 144, 1870.

[This committee reported that twenty-six of these versions had received a majority of more than two-thirds, and had been incorporated in the revised edition of the Psalms, published by the direction of the Assembly. Concerning this revised edition of the Psalms, the following action was taken :]

Resolved, 1. That the revised edition of the present version of the Psalms, and the new versions published in the same volume, by direction of the Twelfth General Assembly, be authorized to be used according to the action of that Assembly.

2. That the committee are entitled to the thanks of the Assembly and the church for the faithfulness and ability with which their duty has been performed.

4. That the present committee, * * * be continued to supervise and correct any typographical and verbal inaccuracies that may occur in the publication of this authorized edition. Vol. III, p. 284, 1871.

[The history of the preparation of the new version of the Psalms is thus given by the committee :]

It is now forty-four years since the propriety of amending our version of the Psalms, and introducing additional duplicate versions, was suggested in the "Religious Monitor," Vol. I, pp. 497-500. The proposal at the time met with little favor, but has never since been entirely forgotten. During the twelve years since our union, committees have been again and again appointed to attend to this business. There have now been prepared and published by these committees 173 versions, not including twelve which were only republished with amendments. Of these 173, there have been adopted 145, and nearly all by majorities of more than two-thirds, and not a few almost unanimously. Seven of these have since, for various reasons, been dropped; leaving still 138 versions, embracing 117 Psalms authorized to be used, in worship, by the church. Vol. III, p. 313, 1871.

5. **The Introduction of the Amended and New Versions into Congregational Worship.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the revised Psalms are commended to all our congregations, with increased confidence in their fidelity, excellence and peculiar fitness for the praise of the churches at the present time.

2. That we do affectionately and sincerely recommend that all our congregations introduce the revised Psalms into all their worship, in private and in public, as soon as practicable.

3. That it is the deliberate judgment of this General Assembly, which we solemnly commend to the consideration of all our people, that by the early and harmonious introduction of the revised Psalms, they will contribute their best influence for the conservation and perpetuation of the Psalms of the Bible in the church of God. Vol. III, p. 388, 1872.

Resolved, That it is the province of the Session to decide when the revised Psalm Book shall be introduced into the congregation. Vol. IV, p. 33, 1874.

6. **Selections from the Psalms to be Published by the Board of Publication.**—*Resolved*, That the Board of Publication be authorized to publish selections from the revised edition of the Book of Psalms for use in prayer meetings and Sabbath Schools. Vol. IV, p. 189, 1875.

7. **The Difficulty with Prof. Abner Jones Concerning the Copyright of Certain Versions of the Psalms.**—[When the committee had printed sixty-seven selected and prepared versions, Prof. Jones gave notice that he would regard the publication of them an infringement on his copyright. Vol. I, p. 305, 1861. The following action was taken by the Assembly:]

Resolved, That * * * be and hereby are appointed to confer with Prof. Jones in regard to this overture. Vol. I, p. 223, 1861.

[Prof. Jones presented to the Assembly of 1864 a memorial on the subject of his copyright, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the further consideration of this version of fifteen Psalms be postponed till the question of the copyright of Abner Jones is satisfactorily settled. Vol. II, p. 27, 1864.

Resolved, 1. That the memorialist may feel assured that the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church will not pursue any course in regard to a new version of the Psalms that would in any way infringe on his copyright, or the copyright of any other author, without the consent of the party concerned, and an equitable and satisfactory compensation.

2. That a select committee be appointed to confer with Abner Jones on the matters contained in his memorial, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. II, p. 30, 1864.

[The committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly earnestly disclaims any intention of interfering with the copyright of Prof. Jones.

2. That the expressed determination of the Psalmody committee carefully to avoid borrowing from Prof. Jones be and hereby is heartily approved. Vol. II, p. 159, 1865.

[Mrs. Jones proposed to the Assembly of 1868, to sell the copyright of the version of her late husband, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That a committee * * * be appointed to negotiate with Mrs. Jones, touching the terms on which this Assembly can obtain the use of the copyright of the versions of the late Prof. Abner Jones, and report to the next Assembly. Vol. II, p. 490, 1868.

LXIV. PUBLICATION, BOARD OF.

1. **Charter of the Board of Publication.**—[Granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania; approved by the Governor, April 14, 1863, and accepted by the Assembly, Vol. I, p. 484, 1863.]

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c., that Rev. David R. Kerr, D. D., Rev. James Prestley, D. D., Rev. James Rodgers, D. D., Rev. John G. Brown D. D., Rev. George C. Vincent, Charles Arbuthnot, James McCandless, James Robb and William Stevenson and their successors in office be and they hereby are constituted and created a body politic and corporate, in deed and in law, by the name, style and title of the United Presbyterian Board of Publication; and by that name to have perpetual succession, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all the courts of law and equity, or before any Alderman or Justice of the Peace, in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, matters and demands of whatever nature or kind the same may be, and to adopt and use a common seal, and the same to change at pleasure.

SEC. 2. That said corporation shall have power to take, hold, receive and possess goods, chattels, rights, credits, moneys and bequests; and use, sell, convert and dispose of the same for the objects and purposes hereinafter set forth. All conveyances of real estate shall be made to the Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, in trust for said United Presbyterian Board of Publication. *Provided*, That the net annual income shall not exceed $20,000.

SEC. 3. That the object of said corporation shall be two-fold: First. To purchase or print and circulate the Holy Scriptures, or parts of the Holy Scriptures, in the authorized version, together with the Psalms, in metre, according to the version approved by the United Presbyterian Church. Second. To select and publish such tracts, papers, periodicals and books as shall be a sound and suitable religious literature for Sabbath Schools, ministers, congregations, and the community at large, and to take such measures as may be necessary for the distribution and circulation of the same.

SEC. 4. That, besides the general publication fund, said corporation shall keep a separate fund to be known by the title of the Bible Fund; and all donations and bequests made to that fund, shall be so credited, and applied to no other object than that specified in the first part of section third.

SEC. 5. That said Board of Publication shall be under and subject to the control the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, and it shall be their duty to report annually at the meeting of the said Assembly, for their approval, the amount of donations and bequests made throughout the year, to the Bible Fund, as well as to the general publication fund, what amount has been expended in each of these departments, and how expended, the state of the treasury, stock on hand, and any other items of information, which it may be important for the Assembly to know.

SEC. 6. That the persons herein designated as corporators shall, as soon as practicable, organize and elect a Board of Managers, not exceeding nine in number, who shall determine the manner of electing members and officers of the Board, when the term of such members and officers shall expire, how vacancies of members and officers shall be filled, the time of meeting, the number necessary to constitute a quorum, and make rules, regulations and by-laws necessary to carry out the objects herein set forth. *Provided*, That said rules,

regulations and by-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, and the constitution and laws of the United States.

[A supplement to the charter of the Board of Publication was ordered by the Assembly, Vol. I, p. 484, 1863; granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and approved by the Governor, April 18, 1864.]

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c., that the business of the United Presbyterian Board of Publication shall be under the control and management of a Board of nine managers, five of whom shall constitute a quorum; the said managers shall be elected by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, and shall hold their office for three years; but the term of office of the present Board shall expire as follows: The first three named, in one year from the time of their election, the next three in two years, and three members shall be elected hereafter annually.

SEC. 2. So much of the sixth section of the act to which this is a supplement, as is inconsistent herewith, be and the same is hereby repealed.

[An amendment to the charter of the Board of Publication was granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania; approved by the Governor, April 3, 1872, and accepted by the General Assembly, Vol III, p. 389, 1872.]

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c., that section second of said act of incorporation be and hereby is so amended as to read as follows, viz.:

"SEC. 2. That said corporation shall have power to take, hold, receive and possess goods, chattels, rights, credits, bequests and titles to real estate made or to be made, and to use, sell, convert and dispose of the same for the objects and purposes hereinafter set forth."

SEC. 2. That said Board of Publication shall have power to fill vacancies occuring in the interval between the meetings of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, the persons so appointed to hold office only till the meeting of said Assembly.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect and be of force when accepted by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

2. **Constitution of the Board of Publication.**—[A constitution for the Board of Publication was adopted, Vol. I, p. 47, 1859, but it was superseded by the general constitution of the Boards, and the following new constitution:]

1. This Board shall be styled "The Board of Publication of the United Presbyterian Church of North America," and shall be located in the city of Pittsburgh.

2. The duties and powers of this Board shall be to select and publish such tracts, papers, periodicals and books as shall be a sound and suitable literature for families, Sabbath Schools, ministers and the community at large; to take proper measures for the widespread circulation of its publications, and to publish whatever the Assembly may direct. The affairs of the Board shall be so man-

aged, that its liabilities shall not exceed its assets available within the year, and so as to furnish its publications at the cheapest possible rates. Vol. IV, p. 25, 1874.

3. **Regulations for the Board of Publication.**—[Certain regulations were recommended, Vol. IV, p. 89, 1874. The following were adopted, Vol. IV, p. 590, 1878:]

FIRST.—Your committee would recommend that the Board of Publication be instructed to form by-laws, defining the duties of the corresponding secretary, viz.:

1. To edit any periodical authorized to be published by the Board.

2. To receive all matter for publication, and submit it, with his judgment, to the Board.

3. To conduct all correspondence with authors, and fix the price of copyright, subject to approval by the Board; to prepare all works for the press, and be responsible for the accuracy of the same.

4. To prepare the annual report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing a full statement of the condition, wants and work of the Board, said report to be submitted to the Board for approval at its last regular meeting previous to the meeting of the General Assembly; also, to prepare a report of more general character as to the work and condition of the Board, to be presented to the different Synods each year.

5. To be ex-officio a member of the permanent committees, except the auditing committee.

SECOND.—Your committee would recommend that the Board be instructed to create the office of business manager, and that his duties shall be as follows:

1. This officer shall be under the more immediate control of the executive committee, and shall take charge of the Board's buildings, books, stereotype plates and other property, as the committee may direct.

2. He shall make all contracts for printing, binding, engraving, stereotyping and advertising; make all purchases of material used in the business; and give all orders for work or material on behalf of the Board, subject to the approval of the same committee.

3. He shall lay before the auditing committee, at its monthly meetings, all bills due by the Board.

4. He shall take charge of sales, and use all practical means to extend them; he shall give his undivided time to the Board, and not be allowed to engage in any other business; he shall receive all orders for books, and conduct all correspondence with booksellers, and other business correspondence.

5. He shall report to the corresponding secretary in full, as per forms adopted by this Assembly, the business of the year, in time for him to make his report to the Assembly and be adopted at the regular May meeting of the Board, previous to the meeting of the Assembly.

6. He shall report monthly to the Board the amount of the sales of each month, and any other information the executive committee may require. Vol. IV, p. 634, 1878.

Resolved, 1. That the blank forms prepared by this committee for annual exhibits be recommended for use.

2. That the Board have authority to provide a business manager, who shall be directly responsible to the Board.

4. That the Board be authorized to make such provision for aid to the manager as will enable him to prosecute, systematically and efficiently, all the work connected with the publishing house, and that they take note of all matters to which attention is called by your special committee.

5. That the recommendations of the special committee in regard to the rule for estimating the value of the real estate and the merchandise, and in regard to the book accounts and bills receivable to be included among the assets, and in regard to the donations, be adopted. Vol. IV, p. 590, 1878.

4. **The Board of Publication to Collect Material for a History of the Church.**—*Resolved*, 3. That the Board be instructed to obtain all the material that they can for a complete history of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 223, 1861.

5. **The Board of Publication to Establish a Bible and Psalm Book Fund.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the Board be authorized and directed to establish a fund, with a view to publish the Scriptures, and along with them, an approved metrical version of the Psalms, when such a version shall have been prepared and adopted by the Assembly; and that the bequests and donations already made to the Board for this purpose be the commencement of this fund. Vol. I, p. 487, 1863.

Resolved, 6. That we recommend the establishment of a Psalm Book fund, to which special contributions may be invited, to enable the Board to make donations of Psalm Books as donations of Bibles with the Psalms are now made, and that $1,000 be appropriated to this fund from the funds contributed to the Board during the year. Vol. III, p. 389, 1872.

6. **The Board of Publication to Establish Depositories.**—*Resolved*, 6. That this Assembly recommends that a depository for the sale and distribution of the publications of the Board be established in each Synod subordinate to the Assembly, and that the location of such depository be under the direction of the several subordinate Synods respectively, and that ministers be urged to call the attention of the people to these publications. Vol. I, p. 487, 1863.

Resolved, 3. That in accordance with the memorial from the Presbytery of Delaware, and in order that the publications of this Board may be more easily obtained by all the members of our church and all others who desire them, the superintendent be directed, upon application of Presbyteries, with approved security, to establish an agency within the bounds of each Presbytery, where all the publications of the Board may be obtained, at the lowest retail prices of the Board. Vol. III, p. 389, 1872.

7. **The Board of Publication to Make Donations to Weak Congregations and Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 7.

That the Board be and hereby is authorized to make donations of books and libraries to weak and indigent Sabbath Schools, and that discretionary power be granted to it in the selection of such schools. Vol. I, p. 487, 1863.

Resolved, 3. That applications to the Board for donations to Sabbath Schools in weak congregations and mission stations be made through the superintendents of missions in the Presbyteries, or if at all practicable, through the Presbyteries. Vol. III, p. 18, 1869.

Resolved, 3. That the Board be authorized to donate to missions, Sabbath Schools, theological students and missionaries, in suitable books, an amount equal to the contributions made during the year. Vol. IV, p. 591, 1878.

8. **The Board of Publication Authorized to Encourage the Preparation of Original Works by Paying for Manuscripts and by Offering Prizes.**—*Resolved*, 2. That the Board be authorized to encourage the preparation of original works, by paying a reasonable price for manuscripts which, in their judgment, are suitable for publication. Vol. III, p. 18, 1869.

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly heartily commend the Board of Publication in its efforts to increase our own church's literature, and we do hereby authorize said Board to offer prizes for the best manuscripts from members of the United Presbyterian Church, said offers to be subject to the regulations mentioned in the printed statement of the Board to this Assembly. Vol, IV, p. 323, 1876.

9. **The Board of Publication to Publish Registers and Blanks for the Use of Sessions, &c.**—*Resolved*, That in accordance with the petition of the Westmoreland Presbytery the Board of Publication be authorized to prepare and publish registers and blanks for the use of Sessions, missionaries and financial agents, in such form and in such numbers as the exigencies of the church may, in the judgment of the Board, demand. Vol. I, p. 487, 1863.

LXV. READING SERMONS.

Resolved, That the Assembly expresses its decided disapprobation of this practice. Vol. II, p. 309, 1866.

LXVI. REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, (General Synod.)

Union with the Reformed Presbyterian Church.—*Resolved*, That the committee on correspondence be instructed to inform the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, to meet in Philadelphia on the 25th instant, of the receipt of their communications to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, and the Synod of the Associate Church, referred to this Assembly by those bodies; to transmit to them a copy of the basis of union, and the action had upon it; and to invite them to take similar action, with a view to their becoming a part of the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 30, 1859.

Gratefully acknowledging the goodness of the Head of the Church, in crowning our past efforts to promote union among those of "like

precious faith" with such signal success, we would be encouraged to still further labors in the same great cause; therefore,

Resolved, That the committee on correspondence be directed to address, on this subject, both branches of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in our own land. Vol. II, p. 160, 1865.

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly have heard with no ordinary degree of pleasure the unfeigned desire of our brethren of the Reformed Church to enter into an organic union with us, that we sincerely reciprocate this desire, and most cordially concur in the sentiment so well expressed in the letter of their delegate, "that those who have the least to separate them ought first to come together."

2. That a committee be now appointed by this Assembly to confer with the committee which has already been appointed by them with regard to this desired union. Vol. II, p. 319, 1866.

Resolved, 1. That we hail with much pleasure the proposal of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, to appoint committees to meet and confer together, with a view to effect a union between the two churches.

2. That * * * be appointed a committee to meet with a similar committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and that a meeting be held on the thirtieth day of June next, in the First United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. Vol. II, p. 510, 1868.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly a proposed basis, which had been under discussion by the joint committee, Vol. III, p. 12, 1869, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That the committee be re-appointed to prosecute the work in which they have been engaged, should the Reformed Presbyterian Church see fit to continue the negotiation. Vol. III, p. 12, 1869.

[This committee reported the following basis, which was approved by the Assembly:]

WHEREAS, An organic union between the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church and the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church is most desirable and of the utmost importance to the maintenance and more general diffusion of the principles which they hold in common; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That these churches agree to form an organic union on the basis of the principles embraced in common in their respective Testimonies, and the other subordinate standards.

2. That these churches, when united, shall be called the United Presbyterian Church, consisting of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and the United Presbyterian Church, and that the Supreme Judicatory of the United Church shall be called the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

3. That the different Boards and institutions of the respective churches shall not be affected by this union, but shall have the control of their funds, and retain all their corporate or other rights and privileges, until the interests of the church shall require a change. Vol. III, p. 131, 1870.

LXVII. REPORTS OF PRESBYTERIES.

1. **Reports of Presbyteries to be Omitted from the Printed Minutes.**—The committee was ordered by the Assembly to omit the reports of Presbyteries in the published minutes. Vol. II, p. 321, 1866.

2. **Blanks to be furnished Presbyteries for their Annual Report.**—*Resolved,* That the clerk of the Assembly be directed to prepare a printed blank "formula of report on Narrative and State of Religion" embodying the topics to which allusion has been made above, together with such others as may be thought desirable, and forward two blanks to the clerk of each Presbytery, one of which the Presbytery shall be required to fill and return to the Assembly at its annual meeting. Vol. II, p. 504, 1868.

Resolved, 2. That the permanent committee on Narrative and State of Religion be instructed to prepare and distribute, through the second clerk of the Assembly, not later than the first of February, 1875, blank reports for congregations and Presbyteries, to be filled up with such facts and figures as will enable the committee to make a full and satisfactory report to the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 15, 1874.

3. **Reports of Presbyteries to be Forwarded to the Permanent Committee on Narrative and State of Religion.**—*Resolved,* 3. That it shall be the duty of the Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of said committee, their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later than the first day of May, each year, Vol. III, p. 518, 1873.

Resolved, 3. That these reports shall be returned to the committee not later than the 20th of April, 1875. Vol. IV, p. 16, 1874.

LXVIII. ROMANISM.

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly admonish our people of the actual danger from this source, and advise them to use all legal and honorable means to prevent the perversion of school funds for the use of any church or sect.

2. That our Board of Publication be instructed to keep for sale, and advertise such books, as expose the character and tendency of Romanism. Vol. IV, p. 187, 1875.

LXIX. RULES OF ORDER.

[Rules of Order were adopted, Vol. I, p. 99, 1860; amended, Vol. I, p. 120, 1860; and amended and printed, Vol. I, p. 440, 1862. These Rules of Order were superseded by those now in use. Vol. III, p. 117, 1870. For Rules of Order see Digest, p. 69.

Rules of Order Amended.—*Resolved,* That hereafter there be added to the Standing Committees of the Assembly, a committee on Nominations, which shall nominate to the Assembly persons to fill the vacancies occurring in all the Boards each year. Vol. IV, p. 172, 1875.

Resolved, That the rule requiring the appointment of a committee on "The Narrative and State of Religion," soon after the opening of each Assembly, be suspended; and that such committee shall be appointed before each Assembly rises; and that this committee shall have under consideration, during the entire year, the condition, tendencies and development of the spiritual life of the church, and shall report to the next Assembly; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of the Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of this committee their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later than the first day of May of each year. Vol. III, p. 158, 1870.

Resolved, 2. That the action of the Assembly of 1870, relative to committees on Narrative and State of Religion, be hereby rescinded.

3. That the rule defining the duties of the committee on Narrative and State of Religion be so amended as to require said committee to report to the General Assembly following its appointment; and in order that this report may be made more intelligently, it shall be the duty of the Presbyteries to forward to the chairman of said committee their reports on the state of religion in the churches under their care, not later then the first day of May, each year. Vol. III, p. 518, 1873. [It is, however, the custom to appoint two committees on Narrative and State of Religion, each year; one a standing committee, to report to the Assembly, by which it was appointed; the other a permanent committee, to report to the Assembly following its appointment.]

LXX. RULING ELDERS.

1. **The Term of Office of the Ruling Elder.**—[A memorial of the Presbytery of Cleveland, in relation to the election of elders for a limited term, was referred to the committee on Judiciary. This committee presented the following report, which was adopted:]

Resolved, 1. That an elder may resign his charge in a particular congregation, the same as a pastor, and that when he ceases to exercise his office in the congregation in which he is installed, it is his duty to resign; and that he is not regularly released from his obligations in that congregation till his resignation be accepted by the Session.

2. That it is the imperative duty of the elder to resign whenever his influence is so impaired from any cause, that he cannot exercise his office efficiently in the congregation in which he is installed.

3. That when it is evident that an elder has become generally inacceptable and inefficient in a congregation, it is the privilege of that congregation to ask him to resign; and if the end be not thereby accomplished, the congregation, in conjunction with the Session, may lay the matter before the Presbytery for their action.

4. That it is the duty of the Presbyteries to use all proper means to bring up the eldership of the church to that standard of efficiency in their work, so imperatively demanded in the position which they are called to occupy.

5. That the Assembly enjoins Sessions and congregations to abide by the law of the church in the election of elders.

6. That we heartily rejoice in the evidences, on the part of the eldership of the church, of their increasing devotion to the work. Vol. III, p. 286, 1871.

2. **Church Property to be under the Control of the Session for Public Worship.**—*Resolved*, 3. That the General Assembly, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Watson vs. Jenner, instruct Presbyteries and congregations that the control and possession of church property belongs only to the members holding to the principles of the United Presbyterian Church, and that it will require a unanimous vote of the Session and congregation to sell, dispose of, or alienate said church property; it being understood that this action does not prevent congregations from disposing of church property for the purpose of rebuilding, or the erection of a new building in a new location.

4. That in every church, the trustees shall be in full communion with the church, and that the use of the church building, for public worship and all other meetings, shall be under the direction and control of the Session of the church. Vol. III, p 523, 1873.

LXXI. SABBATH.

1. **The Desecration of the Sabbath.**—*Resolved*, 1. That this Assembly hereby most earnestly warn our people against participating in, or giving countenance to, the desecration of the holy Sabbath.

2. That this Assembly recommends that ministers preach frequently on the importance of the proper observance of God's holy day. Vol. III, p. 31, 1869.

[A committee was appointed to prepare an address concerning the violation of the Sabbath by railroad companies in the running of trains, and to forward a copy of their address to the officers of the railroad companies. Vol. IV, p. 584, 1878.]

2. **The Opening of the Centennial Grounds on the Sabbath.**—WHEREAS, The Commissioners of the Centennial Exposition have wisely resolved to keep the Exposition grounds closed on the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and,

WHEREAS, A determined effort is now being made to have this resolution reversed, and to have the grounds opened to visitors on the Lord's Day; and,

WHEREAS, There is special reason, at this time, for all Christians to unite their efforts to maintain the sanctity of the Lord's Day; therefore,

Resolved, That this General Assembly, representing the entire United Presbyterian Church of North America, protest most solemnly against the opening of the Centennial grounds on the Lord's Day, and pledge ourselves and our people to sustain the Commissioners in the noble stand they have taken on that subject. Vol. IV, p. 295, 1876.

3. **Closing the Philadelphia Permanent Exhibition on the Sabbath.**—*Resolved*, That this General Assembly hereby instruct the moderator and clerk to convey to the managers the thanks of this Assembly, for the noble stand they have taken in the observance of the Lord's Day. Vol. IV, p. 456, 1877.

LXXII. SABBATH SCHOOLS.

1. **Sabbath School Statistics.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the Presbyteries be directed to report the statistics of the Sabbath Schools of our church in their bounds.

2. That these statistics embrace the following items; to-wit: Number of schools, number of mission schools, number of officers and teachers, number of scholars, the increase or decrease in the year, number of Sabbath School papers, and amount contributed by these schools to benevolent objects. Vol. I, p. 485, 1863.

Resolved, 3. That the clerk of the Assembly be directed to prepare blanks for Sabbath School statistics, and furnish them to the several Presbyteries. Vol. II, p. 34, 1864.

Resolved, 7. In order to secure more prominent attention to this vast and vital interest of the church, your committee further recommend, if found practicable, that the statistical tabular sheet be so altered as to devote five columns to the Sabbath School instead of two; these columns to be filled up as follows: 1. Number of schools. 2. Number of officers and teachers. 3. Number of scholars. 4. Number of books in library. 5. Amount collected. Vol. II, p. 500, 1869.

Resolved, 2. In order that a full and satisfactory report may be made to each Assembly, we would suggest that the Assembly authorize the permanent committee to procure blanks to be sent to all pastors or superintendents, to be by them filled and returned to the permanent committee on or before the first of April, each year. Vol. IV, p. 355, 1876.

2. **A Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the moderator of the General Assembly annually to nominate for adoption a standing committee of five persons on the subject of Sabbath Schools. Vol. II, p. 408, 1867.

3. **A Permanent Committee on Sabbath Schools and its Duties.**—*Resolved*, 5. That a standing committee of five members be appointed * * * which shall hold its meetings at discretion, and whose duty it shall be to examine Sabbath Schools throughout the church, to collect information in regard to their wants, their mistakes and their successes; a committee with which correspondence may be had, by all interested in the work, in regard to whatever is likely to increase its efficiency, and which shall inaugurate measures for the advancement of the cause; as, for instance, by suggesting to Presbyteries and Synods the propriety of holding Sabbath School conventions at which the claims of the object shall be presented and discussed; said committee to report to the Assembly of 1871. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

Resolved, That a permanent committee of five members be appointed * * * whose duty it shall be to collect information in regard to the condition of Sabbath Schools throughout the church. This committee shall also inaugurate measures for the advancement of the interests of this work, such as suggesting to Presbyteries and Synods the propriety of holding Sabbath School conventions, at which the claims of the object shall be presented and discussed; and to this committee all correspondence in relation to this cause by those engaged, or in any way interested therein, shall be addressed; said committee to report to the Assembly of 1872. Vol. III, p. 285, 1871.

Resolved, 5. That it shall be the duty of the permanent committee on Sabbath Schools to prepare or procure the preparation of suitable notes for the teachers and lesson papers for the scholars, and that they be directed to publish them in such periodical or periodicals of the church as may be willing to admit them, or as the committee may deem best adapted to the purpose. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

4. **Members of Session to Labor in the Sabbath School, and in Their Official Capacity to have the Supervision over it.**—*Resolved*, 3. That as the children of the Sabbath School constitute a most important part of the church, and should therefore be under the special care of its overseers, we deem it in the highest degree essential that, whenever practicable, the members of Sessions should be laborers in the Sabbath School, and in their official capacity maintain such a faithful and wholesome supervision over it, that it cannot fail to become a powerful auxiliary in building up the cause of the Redeemer. Vol. II, p. 499, 1868.

Resolved, 4. That it is the duty of the Session, to whom is intrusted the oversight of the congregation, to give special attention to the Sabbath School, and, in their official capacity, exercise a supervision over it, which will tend to its purity and efficiency. Vol. III, p. 33, 1869.

Resolved, 5. That the eldership of the church should identify itself closely with the Sabbath School, and take part in carrying it on. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 1. That pastors and Sessions having, according to the Directory for Worship, the special oversight and control of the Sabbath School, should in every case be deeply interested in its work and welfare, and should use every means in their power to secure, if possible, the attendance of all the children of the school upon the regular services of public worship in the congregation. Vol. III, p. 580, 1873.

5. **Presbyteries to give Attention to Sabbath School Work.**—*Resolved*, 4. That the Presbyteries of our church be and hereby are recommended to give increased attention to the Sabbath School work; to secure more complete statistical reports of Sabbath School operations; and, when practicable, hold occasional conferences on the subject, by which means we may hope to awaken an increased interest, and bring every available energy into operation, so that this garden of the Lord may be zealously and perseveringly

cultured, and become the nursery of the church. Vol. II, p. 500, 1868.

Resolved, 9. That the Presbyteries * * * of our church interest themselves more in the growth and guidance of Sabbath Schools, whether in settled congregations or mission districts. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 1. That Presbyteries be recommended to hold at least one Sabbath School convention each year, for the purpose of creating a deeper interest in this important work, and to help and encourage those who are engaged in it. Let the action of said Presbyterial conventions be reported to the permanent committee. Vol. IV, p. 355, 1876.

Resolved, 2. That Presbyteries be recommended to hold conventions in the interest of Sabbath Schools, at least once a year, and that they appoint some efficient Sabbath School worker, whose duty it shall be to call such conventions, make all arrangements respecting them, and report results to the permanent committee. Vol. IV, p. 440, 1877.

Resolved, 9. That the office of Presbyterial superintendent of Sabbath Schools be continued, that Presbyterial conventions be held under the direction of the superintendents, and that the permanent committee be directed to call a convention of Presbyterial superintendents, at such time and place as may seem best, to be under the general direction of said committee. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

6. **Superintendents of Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 2. That Presbyteries be recommended to hold conventions in the interests of Sabbath Schools, at least once a year, and that they appoint some efficient Sabbath School worker whose duty it shall be to call such conventions, make all arrangements respecting them, and report results to the permanent committee. Vol. IV, p. 440, 1877.

Resolved, 9. That the office of Presbyterial superintendent of Sabbath Schools be continued, that Presbyterial conventions be held under the direction of the superintendents, and that the permanent committee be directed to call a convention of Presbyterial superintendents, at such time and place as may seem best, to be under the general direction of said committee. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

7. **Synods to give Attention to Sabbath School Work.**—*Resolved*, 6. That it be recommended to the several Synods of the church to appoint committees to correspond and consult with this committee of the General Assembly. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

Resolved, 9. That * * * the Synods of our church interest themselves more in the growth and guidance of Sabbath Schools, whether in settled congregations or mission districts. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 9. That each Synod under the care of this Assembly be directed to spend at least one Session each year in conference on this subject. Vol. IV, p. 168, 1875.

8. **Teachers in the Sabbath School to be Members of the Church.**—*Resolved*, 4. That teachers should be members of the church, and well known for their piety. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

9. **Teachers in the Sabbath School to Hold Frequent Meetings for Prayer, &c.**—*Resolved*, 3. That it is the duty of superintendents and teachers to hold monthly, or more frequent meetings, for conference and prayer. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

10. **Adult Classes in the Sabbath School.**—*Resolved*, 4. That we earnestly recommend the forming of classes composed of adult members and adherents of the church, believing that the Sabbath School, according to the best idea, is an institution for the scriptural instruction both of the young and old, and that the adoption of this plan would overcome, in a great measure, the difficulty of retaining young men and women in the schools, inasmuch as they would then be encouraged to continue their attendance by the example of their parents and of other persons older than themselves. Vol. III, p. 391, 1872.

Resolved, 1. That the adult members of the church be urged to embrace the opportunity for Bible study afforded by the Sabbath School, and thus not only obtain for themselves a better acquaintance with the Scriptures, but by their presence there remove one of the greatest hindrances to the attendance and retention of the children and youth in our Sabbath Schools. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

11. **Classes for the Training of Sabbath School Teachers.**—*Resolved*, 1. That in all cases in which it is possible, pastors or Sessions be directed to establish classes in their congregations for the training of teachers; that, along with the Bible, the Shorter Catechism be used as the basis of systematic doctrinal instruction in these classes; and that special lessons be given in the art of teaching. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

12. **The Shorter Catechism to be Studied in the Sabbath School.**—*Resolved*, 3. That the Shorter Catechism should be carefully studied in all our schools, and that greater attention should be paid to the exercise of singing. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 5. That while the Bible is the great text-book, the catechisms, especially the Shorter and Brown's, should be taught in the Sabbath Schools. Vol. III, p. 580, 1873.

Resolved, 4. That in addition to these [uniform] lessons, we earnestly urge and recommend the study of the catechisms of the church in all our schools, and further, that the Bible be read as a regular exercise in all the classes. Vol. IV, p. 167, 1875.

Resolved, 5. That the persons selected to prepare the lessons be also directed to prepare lessons on the catechism and doctrines of the church, to be taught in connection with the International Lessons. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

13. **Uniform Lessons for Sabbath Schools Recommended.** *Resolved*, 4. That all the improved methods of teaching by means of "blackboard exercises," "object lessons," "uniform lessons," &c., be recommended to the teachers, with the suggestion that care be taken to adapt these matters to the situations in which it is proposed to employ them. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

Resolved, 2. That the Bible is the great text-book, and that the plan of uniform lessons for the whole school, with review, be recom-

mended to the favorable consideration of the Sabbath Schools throughout the church. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 3. That all our people are earnestly urged to use the International Uniform Lesson Series, and to employ the papers published by the Assembly's committee. Vol. IV, p. 167, 1875.

14. **Notes and Lesson Papers for the Sabbath School.**—*Resolved*, 5. That it shall be the duty of the permanent committee on Sabbath Schools to prepare or procure the preparation of suitable notes for the teachers and lesson papers for the scholars and that they be directed to publish them in such periodical or periodicals of the church as may be willing to admit them, or as the committee may deem best adapted to the purpose. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

15. **Preaching to Sabbath School Scholars.**—*Resolved*, 10. That the Assembly direct the attention of pastors to the importance of preaching the gospel to the children, and of urging upon parents the duty of more faithful religious training in the family. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 2. That pastors should study to adapt their sermons specially to the young, thus obeying Christ's injunction, "feed my lambs." Vol. III, p. 580, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That as the preaching of the gospel is the great instrumentality for the conversion of children, as well as older persons, pastors, elders, teachers, and especially parents, should see to it that the children of the Sabbath School attend upon the regular services of the church; and in all cases where parents neglect to take their children with them to the church, they should be admonished in regard to their duty in this matter, by those who have the spiritual oversight of them and their children. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

16. **Books and Papers for the Sabbath School.**—*Resolved*, 5. That as many of the books and papers now in use in our Sabbath Schools are calculated to engender a distaste for the word of God, we earnestly recommend to superintendents and teachers the greatest care in the selection of Sabbath School literature, and the use, as far as practicable, of the publications of our own church. Vol. II, p. 500, 1868.

Resolved, 5. That as solemn responsibilities are connected with the religious education of the young, we earnestly recommend pastors, superintendents and teachers to exercise great care in the selection of libraries and Sabbath School papers. Vol. III, p. 33, 1869.

Resolved, 2. That as the object of the schools is to impart religious instruction and train the children in the love of Christ and his church, particular care should be exercised in regard to the management and the supply of books and literature. Vol. III, p. 146, 1870.

Resolved, 6. That libraries for the schools should be selected with the utmost care, or entirely dispensed with. Vol. III, p. 580, 1873.

Resolved, 3. That the attention of our ministers and intelligent laymen be directed to the importance of preparing and publishing suitable books for the Sabbath School library, and that when any minis-

ter or member has become acquainted with a good Sabbath School book, he be requested to forward the title of it to the Board of Publication, that it may be more fully examined, and if approved, placed upon the lists of the publications kept by the Board for the use of the schools; and also that the Board be directed to publish, from time to time, a descriptive list of the books they have selected, and send a copy of said list to each pastor in the church. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

Resolved, 3. That when libraries are used, and we recommend them in missionary schools especially, the most careful attention be given to the selection of the books distributed. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

17. **Congregations to Provide Funds for Maintaining Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 6. That our congregations should provide the funds needful for maintaining the schools. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 2. That the schools be recommended to look to the general funds of the congregation for their current expenses. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

18. **Sabbath Schools to be Kept Open During the Entire Year.**—*Resolved*, 7. That every effort should be made to keep the schools open for as large a portion of the year as possible. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 5. That, in order that all children may receive full benefit of the system of lessons, it is of great importance that Sabbath Schools be kept open for the whole year. Vol. IV, p. 168, 1875.

19. **Mission Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 5. That we earnestly recommend the establishing and fostering of Sabbath Schools in all our new mission stations, and that we call the attention of our missionaries and superintendents of missions to this matter. Vol. III, p. 392, 1872.

Resolved, 4. That the Sabbath School should be made more aggressive in its work, and that its special mission is to gather in and instruct those who have no religious training, and no one to care for their souls. Vol. III, p. 580, 1873.

Resolved, 4. That every Sabbath School should be missionary in its character. All connected with it should be engaged in efforts to bring in neglected children. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

20. **Contributions of Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 6. That the Sabbath School children throughout the church be requested to contribute to the support of one or more new missionaries in the foreign field. Vol. III, p. 33, 1869.

Resolved, 8. That scholars should be encouraged to contribute weekly for missionary and benevolent purposes, other than the wants of their own school. Vol. III, p. 256, 1871.

Resolved, 3. That the permanent committee be instructed to specify, through the papers of the church, near the beginning of each quarter of the year, some object or objects to which they would recommend our Sabbath Schools to appropriate their contributions;

and that any who desire to obtain Sabbath School contributions for any particular object, be requested to lay its claims before said committee, so that if they deem the object one of the most worthy and proper, they may recommend it to the schools. Vol. III, p. 391, 1872.

Resolved, 7. That contributions should be made in all the schools weekly. Vol. III, p. 544, 1873.

Resolved, 4. That * * * an opportunity should be afforded the scholars at every session to contribute their substance for missionary work. Vol. IV, p. 43, 1874.

Resolved, 2. That the schools be recommended to apply all their contributions to general missionary and benevolent purposes, as best calculated to cultivate unselfish liberality on the part of the youth. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

21. **A Weekly Sabbath School Paper.**—*Resolved*, 7. That the permanent committee be and hereby is directed to inquire into the feasibility of publishing a first-class weekly Sabbath School paper; and, if the way be clear, take measures to secure such a desirable object at the earliest day, provided that no expense be involved for the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 168, 1875.

Resolved, 3. That * * * be constituted a committee to inquire into the practicability of establishing a weekly Sabbath School paper, of the character suggested by the permanent committee, with instructions to report to the next General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 440, 1877.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That we regard the publication of a weekly Sabbath School paper, under the direction of the Board of Publication, at this time, as inexpedient, inasmuch as such a publication can be most successfully conducted as a private enterprise. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

22. **Music for Sabbath Schools.**—*Resolved*, 4. That a committee be appointed to prepare and publish a book of selections of Psalms set to music, especially for the Sabbath Schools, it being understood that the version used be such as the church has authorized. Vol. IV, p. 579, 1878.

LXXIII. SALARIES.

1. **Salary of Officers of the Assembly, Corresponding Secretaries, &c.**—*Resolved*, 1. That a committee of five be appointed by this Assembly to take into consideration the whole question of salaries of officers of the Assembly, and secretaries and treasurers of the various Boards, and that they be instructed to readjust the same upon an equitable basis, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 456, 1877.

[This committee reported to the next Assembly, when the following was substituted and adopted:]

We recommend that officers be paid as follows: *Corresponding Secretaries of the Boards*—of Home Missions, $800; of Church

Extension, $600; of Foreign Missions, $500; of Freedmen's Missions, $200; of Education, $150. *Treasurers of the Boards*—of Foreign Missions, $300; of Church Extension, $75. *Officers of the Assembly*—principal clerk, $75; second clerk, $200; assistant clerk, $25. Also, that all other officers whose services are before us be paid their expenses in addition to our high appreciation and cordial thanks. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.

2. **Salary of Officers of the Assembly, Corresponding Secretaries, &c., to be Paid Out of Assembly's Fund.**—*Resolved*, 2. That after the present year, all such salaries be paid out of the General Assembly fund, on orders drawn by the principal clerk. Vol. IV, p. 456, 1877.

Resolved, That the action of the General Assembly of last year, ordering that the salaries of the officers of the Assembly, secretaries and treasurers of the various Boards, be paid out of the General Assembly fund, be and hereby is rescinded. Vol. IV, p. 589, 1878.

3. **Salary of the Clerks of the Assembly.**—See Clerks.

4. **Salary of Foreign Missionaries.**—See Foreign Missions, Board of.

5. **Salary of Home Missionaries.**—See Home Missions, Board of.

6. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Church Extension.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the compensation of the secretary be $200 per annum. Vol. III, p. 142, 1870.

The vote fixing the salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Church Extension was reconsidered, and his salary was increased to $300 per annum. Vol III, p. 159, 1870.

Resolved, 11. That the salary of the corresponding secretary be increased to the sum of $500 per year. Vol. III, p. 391, 1872.

[The salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Church Extension was fixed at $600. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

7. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education.**—*Resolved*, 4. That in consideration of the increased labors of the corresponding secretary, his salary be raised to $300. Vol. III, p. 418, 1872.

[The salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Education was fixed at $150. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

8. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions.**—*Resolved*, That $60 be fixed as the salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. Vol. I, p. 121, 1860.

Resolved, 10. That it shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions to attend the annual meetings of the General Assembly, in addition to his duties as at present defined, and that he shall receive a salary, to be paid out of the funds of the Board, of $500 per annum. Vol. II, p. 157, 1865.

Resolved, That the salary of the clerk of the Board of Foreign Missions be the sum of $300. Vol. II, p. 320, 1866.

Resolved, 13. That the salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board be increased from $300 to $500 per annum. Vol. III, p. 407, 1872.

[The salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions was fixed at $500. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

9. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen.**—*Resolved*, That the secretary of the Board of Freedmen's Missions be allowed to draw on the treasurer of said Board for the sum of $500 for services rendered. Vol. II, p. 162, 1865.

Resolved, That the salary of the clerk of the Board of Freedmen's Missions be the sum of $300. Vol. II, p. 320, 1866.

Resolved, 2. That in accordance with the request of the secretary of the Board of Freedmen's Missions, his salary be reduced from $300 to $200. Vol. IV, p. 316, 1876.

[The salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen was fixed at $200. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

10. **Salary of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Home Missions.**—*Resolved*, 4. That we recommend that an order be granted on behalf of the clerk of the committee of missions for $30 for services of this year. Vol I, p. 60, 1859.

Resolved, That $60 be fixed as the annual salary of the clerk of the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions. Vol. I, p. 121, 1860.

Resolved, 15. That the salary of the secretary of the Board of Home Missions be $500 per annum. Vol. II, 177, 1865.

Resolved, That the salary of the clerk of the Board of Home Missions be the sum of $300. Vol. II, p. 320, 1866.

Resolved, 7. That the annual salary of the secretary be increased to $500. Vol. II, p. 410, 1867.

Resolved, 6. That * * * be re-elected corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions for the ensuing four years, and that his salary be $800 per annum. Vol. IV, p. 339, 1876.

[The salary of the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions was fixed at $800. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

11. **Salary of Ministers.**—*Resolved*, That the regulation of ministerial salaries belongs to Presbyteries, and does not properly come before the General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 38, 1869.

Resolved, 5. That $1,500 should be the average salary of the ministers of this church, and that no minister should receive less than $1,000. Vol. III, p. 23, 1869.

Resolved, 3. That congregations be urged to give to their pastors a liberal support, and that the sum of $1,000 should be the minimum for country pastors, and the sum of $2,000 for pastors in towns and cities. Vol. III, p. 534, 1873.

12. **Salary of the Treasurers of the Boards.**—*Resolved*, 4. That the General Assembly cannot admit any claim for salary on the part of treasurers of the different Boards of the church, not having authorized the payment of salaries. Vol. III, p. 269, 1871.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the Foreign Board shall receive annually for his services, $300; of the Home Board, $200; of the Church Extension Board, $100; and of the Freedmen's Board, $75; until otherwise ordered by the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 455, 1877.

[The salary of the treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions was fixed at $300; of the treasurer of the Board of Church Extension at $75; the treasurers of the other Boards to be paid their expenses. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

13. **Salary of the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions.**—*Resolved*, 8. That $300 be granted * * * in acknowledgment of his services as treasurer during the past year. Vol. IV, p. 182, 1875.

Resolved, 14. That the Board be authorized to pay * * * $300, in acknowledgment of his services as treasurer during the past year. Vol. IV, p. 306, 1876.

[The salary of the treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions was fixed at $300. Vol. IV, p. 587, 1878.]

LXXIV. SECRET SOCIETIES.

1. **Free Masons and Odd Fellows.**—*Resolved*, 1. That this Assembly regard adherence to the society of Free Masons, or to that of Odd Fellows, as inconsistent with membership in good standing in the United Presbyterian Church.

2. That all our Sessions be and hereby are enjoined to carry out, by the faithful exercise of discipline, the principles set forth in the XVth Article, as interpreted in the foregoing resolution.

3. That this Assembly do most earnestly and affectionately exhort all the members of this church to abstain from connecting themselves with any secret associations, believing that they are unnecessary, and are calculated to operate injuriously on the interests of society, and that they do especially urge the ministers and elders of this church to use their influence to keep our members from an incorporation with them. Vol. III, p. 25, 1869.

The Presbytery of Chartiers complains of the action of the last General Assembly on the same subject. The Presbytery expresses the opinion that the "Assembly did, inadvertently or otherwise, modify and limit the meaning and application of the XVth article, by putting an interpretation on it, which confines its disciplinary application to the societies of Odd Fellows and Free Masons." * * * One of the memorials, which gave rise to the action of last year, asked the Assembly "to declare distinctly, by name, what societies or associations are prohibited by the aforesaid article." This was, no doubt, considered impracticable, and as there could be no doubt as to the associations of Odd Fellows and Free Masons coming within the scope of the article; and as these are the most powerful, and, no doubt, the most dangerous secret associations in the country, we understand the object of the last Assembly to have been, to direct the attention of Sessions especially to them, without intending to restrict Sessions in the exercise of discipline, whenever the principle of the article in question is violated. The adoption of the following resolution, which is recommended by the committee, is all that seems needful on the subject.

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Assembly, the last Assembly did not and could not intend by their action to alter or

limit, without overture, the principle of our Testimony on the subject of secret societies. Vol. III, p. 154, 1870.

2. **Odd Fellows.**—"Does Article XVth of the United Presbyterian Testimony condemn the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and are Sessions to require, as a condition of admission to the church, from those who are connected therewith, that they withdraw from said order?" Your committee have no hesitation in giving an affirmative answer to this inquiry. Those who become or continue members of this society not only violate the declaration in the Testimony, but also act in opposition to the unquestionable scriptural doctrine laid down in the Confession of Faith, chapter 22, "Of lawful oaths and vows." Vol. I, p. 112, 1860.

In reply to the third point in the memorial, we refer to the report of the Judicial committee of the Assembly of 1860. The Assembly declared it to be the duty of Sessions to require, as a condition of admission to the church, that persons connected with the order of Odd Fellows withdraw from their connection, and that those who become or continue members of this society not only violate the declaration in the Testimony, but also act in opposition to the unquestionably scriptural doctrines laid down in the Confession, chapter 22. The same remarks apply with equal force and obligation with respect to all other secret societies, against which we testify. All that is requisite to secure uniformity is, that Sessions faithfully apply the principles of the church according to their obligations. Vol. I, p. 356, 1862.

3. **Patrons of Husbandry.**—[Two memorials were before the Assembly; the first asking a definite answer to the question: "Is membership in the society known as the Patrons of Husbandry, contrary to the XVth Article of the Testimony, and inconsistent with membership in the United Presbyterian Church?" The second asking the Assembly to give such instruction to the inferior courts as will be best calculated to secure uniform action throughout the church, and strengthen the hands of those who are disposed faithfully to administer the principles of the church, on the subject of secret societies. The following was the action taken:]

Resolved, That the memorialists be referred to the action of the Assembly of 1869, on the subject of secret societies, and that this Assembly re-affirm the third resolution of said action, which is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That this Assembly do most earnestly and affectionately exhort all the members of this church to abstain from connecting themselves with any secret associations, believing that they are unnecessary, and are calculated to operate injuriously on the interests of society, and they do especially urge the ministers and elders of this church, to use their influence to keep our members from an incorporation with them." Vol. III, p. 539, 1873.

Resolved, 1. That it is the duty of the members of the United Presbyterian Church to free themselves from all connection with the order of Patrons of Husbandry, where such connection has been made.

2. That those of our people who may be connected with the order are hereby most earnestly entreated to remember that by their

profession they have come under solemn obligations to Christ to oppose secret societies.

3. That in case of obstinate adherence to the order, it will be the duty of Sessions to use their authority in the way of discipline. Vol. IV, p. 40, 1874.

4. **Union Leagues.**—As your committee have not the necessary evidence before them, they are not prepared to express a judgment on the question whether the practice of the Union League is contrary to the rule of this church in regard to secret societies; and, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the XVth Article of our Declaration and Testimony, which relates to secret societies, is sufficiently explicit and comprehensive, and that the application of its principles belongs primarily to the church Sessions and Presbyteries. Vol. II, p. 30, 1864.

LXXV. SLAVERY.

1. **The Rebellion the Result of Slavery.**—*Resolved*, 1. That in the judgment of this Assembly, this wicked rebellion, which imperils the existence of the government, which aims to found a confederacy upon the ruins of crushed humanity, and which brutally assassinates and murders our fellow citizens, is pre-eminently the result of the practical workings of American slavery. Vol. I, p. 364, 1862.

2. **The Emancipation of Slaves.**—The committee appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in relation to petitioning Congress on the subject of the emancipation of the slaves, recommend as the result of their joint meeting the adoption of the following petition, to be signed by the moderator and clerk of each body, and transmitted to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

"To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, now in session in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, now in session in the city of Allegheny, Pa., believing that the holding of human beings as slaves is a sin against the God of heaven, a manifest transgression of the law of him who came to preach deliverance to the captives, a gross violation of the rights of man, utterly irreconcilable with the principles of human liberty, destructive of the best interests of the land, a foul blot upon the national escutcheon, a prime cause of the existing atrocious rebellion, and if continued, a sure provocative of farther and greater judgments of God upon the nation, would earnestly appeal to the Congress of the United States to adopt at once all the measures competent to it to secure the immediate emancipation of all human beings, now held in this oppressive and degrading bondage in any part of this land, and so far as such an act of justice may avail, avert the just indignation of God Most High, and secure the United States from the recurrence of any similar iniquitous assault upon our national civilization and liberties."

Resolved, That the foregoing action be transmitted to the Reformed Presbyterian Synod now in session. Vol. I, p. 363, 1862.

Resolved, That without expressing any judgment on the military importance or necessity, or the statesmanlike character of the emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln, we hail it as obedience to the voice of God, calling us, as he did his ancient people, "Let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke." Vol. II, p. 31, 1864.

3. **The Use of Money Derived from the Sale of Slaves.**—[Certain members of the United Presbyterian congregation of Calcutta received money derived from the sale of an estate in the State of Louisiana, consisting mainly in slaves. The amount received was too small to purchase and liberate any of the slaves sold. The Session asked the Assembly, "Can they, without a violation of the rules of the United Presbyterian Church, appropriate the money to their own use?"]

Resolved, That those members of the Calcutta congregation, who have received money derived from the sale of slaves, be directed to devote it, according to their best judgments, to the benefit of the colored race. Vol. I, p. 234, 1861.

LXXVI. STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Resolutions on the State of the Country During the Civil War.—*Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly do advise and exhort all the people under her inspection to "Search and try their ways, and turn to the Lord. Let them cease to do evil and learn to do well." Isaah I:16.

2. That the clerk of the Assembly be directed, and hereby is directed, to forward to the President of the United States a letter in behalf of this Assembly; and after assuring him of our earnest sympathy and the sympathy of our people, and our and their readiness to co-operate with him in his endeavors to maintain the constitution and the integrity of the nation, to solicit him, in behalf of this Assembly, by his proclamation, to invite and call all the people of the United States to fasting, humiliation and prayer on ——— day of ———.

3. That the Assembly do earnestly recommend all the people under their care to confess and bewail, not only their own sins, but the sins of the land, and to be much in prayer in these times of trouble. Vol. I, p. 228, 1861.

Resolved, 2. That the true remedy for the evils which now surround us, and threaten our national existence, lies in turning to the living God, acknowledging the sovereignty of him who rules in the affairs of men, and in complying with the demands of his law, which requires that "liberty be proclaimed throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof," "then shall our light break forth as the morning, and our health shall spring forth speedily."

3. That this Assembly has an abiding confidence in the National Government; bids it God-speed in suppressing this rebellion; and we pledge ourselves to its support in maintaining the principles of civil and religious liberty by all scriptural means.

4. That a copy of this paper be transmitted to the President and heads of departments, to assure them of our sympathy and co-operation, and to urge upon them the necessity of taking immediate and effective measures to remove the causes of our national troubles, that we may be restored to the favor of God. Vol. I, p. 364, 1862.

The paper * * * asks for the appointment of a committee to prepare an address to President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton and Lieutenant-General Grant, embodying the following items:

1. An assurance of the deep sympathy and earnest co-operation of this Assembly, and of the people whom we represent, with the Government in its present trials and worthy efforts to maintain the principles on which it is based.

2. The great satisfaction we have enjoyed in observing their recognition of the facts, "that God alone can organize victory," "that we need the Divine favor," and that we are warranted to expect this favor only in the way of a dutiful regard to his will, as Governor among the nations.

3. An assurance that we gladly recognize this favor in the successes which have attended the movements of our armies on the Potomac and in Georgia, and that it is only in the continuance of this favor that we can hope for final success.

That an address of the nature contemplated in the paper of these brethren should go forth from this Assembly is highly proper. We therefore recommend for adoption the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare, at their earliest convenience, an address such as the paper of these brethren contemplates, and forward it to President Lincoln and his cabinet. Vol. II, p. 31, 1864.

Resolved, 1. That with grateful remembrance of our late President, Abraham Lincoln, a great and good man, who, like Moses, under God, led a nation of people to the very borders of the land of liberty and rest, we also pledge to Andrew Johnson, our present Chief Magistrate, our cordial sympathy and support, in the hope that, like a Joshua, he will do right, and accomplish, under God, the object of our desire; namely: the reconstruction of our Government on the broad basis of universal freedom.

2. As civil magistrates are designed to be a terror to evil doers, it is the unanimous opinion of this Assembly that all punishments, defined by the constitution as deserved by traitors, should be visited upon the leading instigators and prosecutors of this rebellion. In Ezra, VII: 26, we read: "Whosoever will not do the law of thy God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment." Mercy to the great civil and military heads of this rebellion would be cruelty to coming generations.

3. We earnestly recommend our people to exhibit every possible kindness to all soldiers who have been maimed by this war, and to the widows and fatherless children of those whose lives have been sacrificed in this conflict for liberty and right.

4. That the stated clerk be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, and

to assure him of our heartfelt desires for his success in the work of reconstruction, in establishing order and peace, and in perfecting the emancipation of the African race in our land. Vol. II, p. 164, 1865,

LXXVII. STATISTICS.

1. **Items to be Inserted in the Statistical Tables.**—*Resolved*, That the following items, personal and financial, in their order, be provided for hereafter in the publication of blank statistical tables:

I. PERSONAL.—1. Name of minister. 2. Post office. 3. Congregation. 4. Number of families. 5. Number of communicants. 6. Increase by examination. 7. Increase by certificate. 8. Decrease by death. 9. Decrease by dismission. 10. Baptisms, infant. 11. Baptisms, adult.

II. FINANCIAL.—1. Home missions. 2. Foreign missions. 3. Education 4. Publication. 5. Church Extension. 6. Assembly's fund. 7. Synod's fund. 8. Salary paid by congregation. 9. Salary paid by Assembly. 10. General contributions. 11. Total amount. 12. Average per member. 13. Correspondent. Vol. I, p. 44, 1859.

Resolved, That Presbyteries are enjoined to report more fully than they have heretofore done on the following points: Names of licentiates, students of theology, and correspondents for vacancies. Designate the clerk of Presbytery, financial agent, and stated supply by the appropriate abbreviations. Vol. I, p. 361, 1862.

Resolved, That the statistical tables for next year, and thenceforward, until otherwise ordered, be changed thus: Let the names of correspondents for vacancies be placed in the column bearing the caption, "Ministers," beneath the names of ministers, licentiates and students, and opposite the names of vacancies; let the columns for deaths and removals be thrown into one, under the heading, "Decrease;" let the column for Synod's fund be erased, and Aged Ministers' fund put in its place; let two columns be inserted after adult baptisms for Sabbath Schools, one for officers and teachers, the other for average number of scholars; also, let a column be inserted next after foreign missions for freedmen's missions. Vol. II, p. 163, 1865.

Resolved, That a list of new organizations made during the year, and an alphabetical list of licentiates, with the Presbyteries to which they belong, be appended to the minutes of this and future Assemblies. Vol. II, p. 511, 1868.

Resolved, That the second clerk, in connection with the corresponding secretaries of the various Boards, be instructed to prepare blanks adapted to the several departments of mission work, and that these blanks be so arranged as to show the following items: 1. Stations. 2. Laborers. 3. Membership. 4. Attendance on ordinances. 5. Sabbath Schools and secular schools, where there are any. 6. Contributions. 7. Salaries. 8. Expenses. 9. Contributions received from other sources than the church. 10. Publication and sale of books and tracts. 11. Value of property and any other items that they may consider necessary to exhibit the progress of the work. Vol. III, p. 20, 1869.

Resolved, 2. That the column in the statistical tables headed, "Salary by Assembly," be stricken out. The reasons for this are: 1. That the amounts reported in this column are frequently added to the total, and the tables are thus confused and rendered inaccurate. 2. That this column does not represent a universal or permanent part of congregational statistics. 3. That the reports of the Home Mission Board furnish all necessary information on this point.

3. That the column headed, "Salary by congregation," be hereafter headed "Salary of pastors," and that, when any part of this salary is drawn from the home mission fund, this fact be indicated, in the column, by a star.

4. That a column be inserted immediately after "Salary of pastors," headed "Amount paid to supplies," and that any portion of this amount received from the home mission funds be indicated, as in the preceding column, by a star. The object contemplated by these two changes is to secure more accurate statistics as to the average salary of pastors.

5. That the column headed "General contributions," be hereafter placed immediately after "Aged Ministers' fund." The design in this is to bring together, in one place, all the contributions of congregations to objects outside their own congregational organizations.

6. That the statistics relating to Sabbath Schools be removed from the place they now occupy in the centre, and placed at the end of the tables. This change is recommended in order to prevent, if possible, an error found in many of the tables; namely: the adding of Sabbath School contributions with the figures in succeeding columns.

8. That the second clerk be directed to collect, in such way as he may judge best, statistics to show the date of ordination of each minister in the church, and the name of the Presbytery in which he was ordained; and report the same to the next Assembly. Vol. III, p. 137, 1870.

Resolved, 5. That it is desirable to have an alphabetical list of congregations as well as of ministers, and that the second clerk be directed to prepare such a list and have it published in the minutes. Vol. III, p. 396, 1872.

Resolved, 3. That a brief record of deceased ministers be preserved in the minutes of the Assembly in suitable tabular form. Vol. IV, p. 171, 1875.

Resolved, 2. That the record of ministers deceased be published in the minutes from year to year. Vol. IV, p. 585, 1878.

Resolved, That the second clerk be instructed to publish the record of ordinations once in each volume of the minutes. Vol. IV, p. 584, 1878.

Resolved, 2. That the table showing the number of congregations in each Presbytery contributing to each of the funds of the church be published in the papers of the church. Vol. IV, p. 450, 1877.

Resolved, 2. That the table showing the number of congregations in each Presbytery contributing to the various funds of the

church be published both in the minutes of the Assembly and in the papers of the church from year to year. Vol. IV, p. 584, 1878.

2. **Statistics Under the Charge of the Second Clerk.**—*Resolved,* That, instead of the assistant clerk, who is elected annually and serves only during the sessions of the Assembly, a second permanent clerk be elected for the same term of office with the principal clerk; who, in addition to his duties during the Assembly, shall have special charge of statistics, shall take measures to secure full and correct reports from all the Presbyteries, shall prepare the tables for the press, and report to the Assembly all Presbyteries which fail to send full and accurate statistics. Vol. II, p. 511, 1868.

3. **Blanks for Statistical Tables.**—*Resolved,* 3. That the stated clerk be directed to have printed and to forward to the clerk of each Presbytery, at least three months previously to the meeting of each Assembly, two blanks for Presbyterial reports, and twice as many congregational blanks as there are congregations in each Presbytery, affixing to each blank such printed directions as may be necessary. Vol. I, p. 44, 1859.

Resolved, That the clerks of the Assembly be authorized to revise the blanks for congregational and Presbyterial reports, and to have them prepared and forwarded to clerks of Presbyteries in season for next year's reports. Vol. II, p. 511, 1868.

4. **Time for Forwarding Statistical Tables.**—*Resolved,* 10. That clerks of Presbyteries be directed to have their statistical tables forwarded to the second clerk, so as to reach him not less than ten days before the meeting of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 138, 1870.

Resolved, 1. That the second clerk be directed to forward blanks to the clerks of Presbyteries, not later than the first of February; that Sessions be required to return their statistics to the clerks of Presbyteries, not later the fifth of April, and the clerks of Presbyteries, to return theirs to the second clerk not later than the twenty-fifth of April. Vol. IV, p. 450, 1877.

5. **Close of the Statistical Year.**—*Resolved,* 1. That the statistical year close on the thirty-first day of March, and that Sessions be required to forward their statistical tables to clerks of Presbyteries as soon thereafter as practicable. Vol. III, p. 396, 1872. [Re-affirmed, Vol. III, p. 546, 1873.]

LXXVIII. STUDENTS.

1. **Students Recommended to Attend the Colleges of the Church.**—*Resolved,* That the ministers and elders of this church be recommended to exert their influence, most earnestly, in promoting the Christian culture of the young under their care, and that all parents, who are seeking for their children a secular education, be urged to take care that those educational institutes, where they place them, be such as are under the influence of Christian principles, and, so far as practicable, such, also, as are favorable to the maintenance and propagation of the tenets of our church. Vol. II, p. 11, 1864.

2. **Undergraduates are not to Enter the Theological Seminary.**—*Resolved,* That Presbyteries be instructed not to permit students to enter the seminaries while prosecuting the collegiate course. Vol. III, p. 529, 1873.

3. **Theological Students Must be Under the Care of a Presbytery.**—*Resolved,* 3. That no student of the United Presbyterian Church shall be received in any of our seminaries until he has placed himself under the care of some Presbytery, and that after he has been received, he shall pursue his studies during the interval between the sessions under the direction of his Presbytery. Vol. II, p. 487, 1868.

4. **Presbyteries to Exercise Care in Licensing Students.**—*Resolved,* 6. That the Presbyteries be enjoined to exercise tenderly, but faithfully, their authority in judging of the piety, mental gifts and acquirements, and general fitness for the office, of all candidates for the ministry; to give them, during the progress of their studies, the full benefits of a seminary course, as also of such oversight as it belongs to Presbyteries to take of their theological students; and that they be especially enjoined to guard against premature licensures, or whatever would unnecessarily come short of the established conditions of licensure. Vol. III, p. 528, 1873.

Resolved, That Presbyteries be enjoined to adhere more strictly to the instructions of the General Assembly in the licensure of young men. Vol. IV, p. 450, 1877.

Resolved, That as an able as well as a godly ministry is of the utmost importance to our success as a church, this General Assembly earnestly exhort all our Presbyteries to exercise the greatest care in training men for the office of the ministry. Vol. IV, p. 592, 1878.

5. **Unlicensed Students should not Preach.**—*Resolved,* 1. That the Assembly regards with disapprobation, as irregular and of injurious tendency, the condition of matters alleged to exist in certain quarters, according to which unlicensed students of theology undertake to officiate as preachers in the ordinary services of public worship.

2. That Presbyteries be, and they hereby are, charged to adopt prompt measures for the suppression of the disorderly state of matters indicated, resorting, if need be, to the exercise of judicial discipline on the actual offenders, and on those who make themselves accessory to their offense by appointing or inviting them to preach. Vol. IV, p. 592, 1878.

6. **Theological Students not to be Licensed till the Completion of their Regular Theological Course.**—*Resolved,* 2. That it be recommended to Presbyteries not to license any student until he has completed the entire course. Vol. II, p. 486, 1868.

Resolved, 6. That the Presbyteries be especially enjoined to guard against premature licensures, or what would unnecessarily come short of the established conditions of licensure, which, according to our Form of Government, part II, chapter 5, section 2, are that "In ordinary cases, a student is not to be admitted to trials for

license until he has completed a course of theological study of three full years after the time of his admission by the Presbytery, and produced testimonials of good conduct, and proficiency in his studies." Vol. III, p. 528, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That the committee take the liberty of expressing it, as their unanimous opinion, that the best interests of students require their uninterrupted attendance during the three sessions previous to licensure, and earnestly entreat Presbyteries to act accordingly. Vol IV, p. 88, 1874.

Resolved, 1. That the action of the First Presbytery of New York, in licensing students of theology before the completion of their studies, is disapproved by this Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 184, 1875.

7. **Trials of Theological Students need not all be Heard at the Time of Licensure.**—[The striking out of part II, chapter 5, section 4, first clause, "These trial exercises shall be heard at the time of licensure," was overtured to Presbyteries, Vol. III, p. 16, 1869, when it was stricken out by the following vote: Ayes, 549; nays, 52; not voting, 21. Vol. III, p. 150, 1870.]

LXXIX. SUPERINTENDENTS OF MISSIONS.

1. **Election of Superintendents of Missions.**—*Resolved*, That the clerks of Presbyteries be instructed to furnish the principal clerk, previously to the meeting of the Assembly, with a list of nominations for * * * superintendents of missions, with their post-office address, and that the clerk be instructed to report this list to the General Assembly for confirmation. Vol. III, p. 28, 1869.

Each Presbytery shall nominate annually to the General Assembly, one of the ministers connected with it, for appointment as superintendent of missions for the Presbytery. Vol. IV, p. 160, 1875.

2. **Duties of Superintendents of Missions.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the Assembly appoint a suitable person in each Presbytery as superintendent of missions within its bounds, to whom each of the missionaries receiving aid shall send quarterly reports concerning the condition and prospects of the work in his field of labor.

2. That it shall be the duty of said superintendent to condense and prepare for publication the information thus obtained, and forward it to the executive committee. Vol. II, p. 426, 1867.

10. * * * * It shall be his duty to superintend the mission work in his Presbytery; to obtain quarterly reports from stations receiving aid, and from missionaries laboring in the Presbytery; to make a quarterly report, in the form approved by the Assembly, to the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions; to receive from the treasurer of the Board, receipt for and distribute the money appropriated to aid congregations and stations; and in general to act as the organ of communication between the Board and the Presbytery, and perform such duties as the Presbytery may direct. Vol. IV, p. 160, 1875.

3. **Accounts of Superintendents of Missions to be Audited.**—*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries be required, annually, to audit the accounts of the superintendents of missions. Vol. IV, p. 472, 1877.

LXXX. SUSTENTATION FUND.

Resolved, That * * * be a committee to prepare the plan of a sustentation fund, and report to the next General Assembly. Vol. I, p. 44, 1859. [This committee did not present a report to the next Assembly.]

[On certain memorials, asking the Assembly to establish a general delegate fund and a sustentation fund, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That we deem it inexpedient to establish either of these funds at the present time.

2. That a committee of one member from each Synod be appointed, to whom all the papers relating to these subjects shall be referred, and whose duty it shall be to consider these subjects carefully, and report to the next General Assembly; and, also, to publish their report in the papers of the church, at least three months before the meeting of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 543, 1873.

[This committee reported a plan to the Assembly, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That all the papers on the subject of sustentation be referred to a special committee, which shall prepare a report, to be submitted, before the first of September, to the Presbyteries, that they may report to the next General Assembly their opinion thereon, and any suggestions in regard to the same, which they may deem of importance. Vol. IV, p. 16, 1874.

[This committee presented a report to the next Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 226, 1875, when the following action was taken:]

Resolved, That further action on these papers, by this Assembly, is not advisable. Vol. IV, p. 168, 1875.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report to the next General Assembly, if in their judgment they can devise one, an improved system of ministerial support, to the end that such formidable hindrances to the gospel may be avoided, and the success of our church and the salvation of souls greatly promoted. Vol. IV, p. 594, 1878.

LXXXI. SYNODS.

1. **Minutes of Synods.**—*Resolved*, That Synods under the care of Assembly be and are hereby enjoined to submit to the next General Assembly for inspection, a record of their proceedings. Vol. II, p. 309, 1866.

Resolved, 3. That the Synods under the care of the Assembly be authorized, if in their judgment they think it best, to make a printed copy of their minutes, certified by the signature of the clerk, the official copy of the minutes. Vol. III, p. 380, 1872.

2. **Synods Organized.**—The Synod of Iowa. Vol. I, p. 107, 1860.

The Synod of Kansas. Vol. III, p. 10, 1869.

The Synod of Ohio. Vol. I, p. 358, 1862.

The Synod of the Pacific. Vol. IV, p. 308, 1876.

The Synod of Pittsburgh. Vol. I, p. 358, 1862.

3. **Biennial Meetings of the Synod of the Pacific.**—[The Presbyteries of San Francisco and Oregon memorialized the Assembly so to modify the law of the church as to allow the Synod of the Pacific to meet biennially instead of annually. The following action was taken:]

Resolved, That this question be overtured to all the Presbyteries, with instructions that they report their mind thereon to the next Assembly: "Shall the law of the church touching the meeting of Synods be, in the case of the Synod of the Pacific, suspended so far as to permit said Synod, until otherwise ordered by the Assembly or desired by the Synod itself, to meet only once in two years, instead of every year?" Vol. IV, p. 573, 1878.

LXXXII. SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

1. **Standing Committee on Systematic Beneficence and its Duties.**—*Resolved*, 1. That a standing committee of five, to be called the committee on systematic beneficence, be appointed.

2. That the duties of this committee shall be to examine Presbyterial reports, with a view to ascertain what system, if any, the Presbyteries have adopted for raising the benevolent funds of the church, and to recommend such plans or measures as in their judgment are best adapted to secure system in our financial operations, and thus replenish the treasuries of the church. Vol. I, p. 359, 1862. [This committee was abolished by the adoption of the amended Rules of Order in 1870.]

2. **The Tithe System.**—[On a memorial from the Presbytery of Westmoreland, a committee was appointed to investigate and report upon the tithe system, Vol. II, p. 169, 1865. This committee presented a report, Vol. II, p. 319, 1866, which was published by order of the Assembly, Vol. II, p. 347, 1866.]

3. **Weekly Contributions Recommended.**—*Resolved*, 3. That each congregation be recommended to take collections weekly, where it is practicable, and if not weekly, at stated times, and as frequently as possible. Vol. II, p. 18, 1864.

Your committee has had presented to them by the Presbytery of Princeton, the Bellefonte system of gospel support and church extension, and would commend it to the favorable consideration of the church. Vol. III, p. 416, 1872.

Resolved, 5. That we recommend Presbyteries to urge upon our congregations the adoption of the "envelope," or "Bellefonte system," for taking contributions for the support of the gospel and the Boards of the church. Vol. IV, p. 171, 1875.

Resolved, 7. That we recommend, with increased confidence, the adoption and use, in all our congregations, of the voluntary weekly

plan for making contributions for the support of the gospel, at home and abroad. Vol. IV, p. 307, 1876.

4. **A Plan for Systematic Giving.**—[The Assembly recommended a plan for systematic giving. Vol. III, p. 542, 1873.]

LXXXIII. TEMPERANCE.

1. **The Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Drinks.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the business of manufacturing and vending intoxicating drinks, for drinking purposes, is injurious to the best interests of society, and therefore inconsistent with the law of God, which requires "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

4. That the practice of renting houses to be occupied by those who are engaged in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks to be used as a beverage, or for any immoral purpose, is utterly inconsistent with the honor of the Christian religion. Vol. I, p. 41, 1859. [Re-affirmed, Vol. II, p. 16, 1864.]

Resolved, 1. That the Church is essentially a temperance society, and her members should use all their influence for the suppression of the liquor traffic, and encouragement should be given to all those who, by lawful means, are laboring to accomplish this great and noble result. Vol. III, p. 546, 1873.

Resolved, 1. That it is inconsistent with membership in the church of Christ to use, or be engaged in the manufacture or sale of, intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Vol. IV, p. 185, 1875.

WHEREAS, The manufacture and traffic in intoxicating liquors is a great and growing evil, working the ruin of many, and filling the land with want and mourning; and, whereas, the church should do everything to counteract its influence and seek its overthrow; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we, as an Assembly, recommend to all our Presbyteries to do all in their power to counteract the workings of this great evil.

2. That a committee be appointed to consider this matter, and make such recommendations as they think best, to the next Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 322, 1876 [For the report of this committee, see Vol. IV, p. 493, 1877.]

Resolved, 3. That it is inconsistent with membership of the church of Christ to be engaged in the manufacture, or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; or in any other way to aid or abet in the manufacture, sale or use of intoxicating liquors.

5. That the license of the traffic is incompatible with the welfare of the state; and that the state should seek its entire prohibition. Vol. IV, p. 494, 1877.

Resolved, 1. Drunkenness is an evil of giant proportions, having inherent and appalling malignity. It is strongly entrenched by custom, cupidity and appetite. It works wide-spread ruin in society, and destroys men's souls and bodies.

2. The use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the manufacture and sale of them for this purpose, are evils dishonoring to God and destructive to men.

3. To give aid or countenance to those engaged in this nefarious business, by furnishing them with the necessary materials, leasing to them property to be used in their business, signing their petitions for license, or in any other way, is to make ourselves "partakers of other men's sins."

7. Individual Christians should use all proper means for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Legal prohibition, moral suasion and the practice of total abstinence are demanded. Vol. IV, p. 583, 1878.

2. **Total Abstinence.**—*Resolved*, 2. That the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage has a tendency to lead to intemperance, and in most, if not all cases, results in intemperance in a greater or less degree, and, therefore, is inconsistent with the law of God, which not only forbids all sin, but all the "causes, means, occasions and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto."

3. That church Sessions have full authority, and it is their duty, to enforce the principle of total abstinence where, in the exercise of a sound discretion, they have reason to believe the safety of the individual and the honor of religion require it. Vol. I, p. 41, 1859. [Re-affirmed, Vol. II, p. 16, 1864.]

Resolved, 2. That it is the imperative duty of all the followers of Christ to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks of every kind, and that such abstinence is necessary to a consistent Christian life. Vol. III, p. 546, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That every church member should consider himself as pledged, by the obligations which he assumes, to total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Vol. IV, p. 494, 1877.

Resolved, 2. The use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the manufacture and sale of them for this purpose, are evils, dishonoring to God and destructive to men.

7. Individual Christians should use all proper means for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Legal prohibition, moral suasion, and the practice of total abstinence are demanded. Vol. IV, p. 583, 1878.

3. **The Duty of the Church in the Temperance Reform.**—*Resolved*, 4. That it is the duty of all Christians and good citizens to combine their efforts to secure thorough reformation on this subject.

6. That individuals, Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods be requested to use all possible means within their reach, to secure and promote temperance reform.

7. That those engaged in recent movements, having for their object temperance reform, have the sympathy and encouragement of this Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 494, 1877.

Resolved, 4. While, in instances in which it results, in some measure, from inherited infirmity, drunkenness may be regarded, to some extent, as a misfortune; it is at the same time a sin, a heinous sin, against God and a crime against society.

5. Mere human devices, whether pledge, or organization, or profession, while they may be in some degree helpful, are utterly inadequate to the complete and permanent reformation of the

drunkard. The gospel of Christ alone, introduced into the soul by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, can bring effectual deliverance from this and every other form of moral evil.

6. It is the duty of the Christian church to sympathize with and earnestly promote all proper efforts for the reformation of the inebriate and the suppression of intemperance.

8. The church of Jesus Christ is the divinely appointed agency, and through his strength, an adequate agency for the establishment of godliness, and righteousness, and temperance in the earth. Vol. IV, p. 583, 1878.

4. **Prohibition.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the license of the traffic is incompatible with the welfare of the tate; and that the state should seek its entire prohibition. Vol. IV, p. 494, 1877.

Resolved, 7. Individual Christians should use all proper means for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Legal prohibition, moral suasion, and the practice of total abstinence are demanded. Vol. IV, p. 583, 1878.

5. **United Effort with other Denominations to Stay Intemperance.**—[On certain memorials on the subject of temperance, the following action was taken:]

Resolved, 1. That we heartily endorse the sentiments of the memorialists as to the extent of this evil, the greatness of the danger, and the necessity for united and earnest effort to resist it.

2. That, in order to secure concert of action, the Assembly instruct the delegates that may be appointed to other churches to lay before them our desire as a church to unite with them in devising and carrying out measures to stay the tide of intemperance in our land.

3. That, in the meantime, Synods and Presbyteries be requested to hold intercourse with similar courts of other denominations in their bounds, and seek their co-operation in such measures as may be lawful and necessary to promote the cause of temperance. Vol. III, p. 271, 1871.

Resolved, 4. That this Assembly hereby appoints * * * as a committee of correspondence, to invite the co-operation of various ecclesiastical bodies of the Christian church, to unite at as early a day as possible in a national delegate convention, to secure a movement along the entire line, by the organization of a national Christian Temperance Alliance. Vol. IV, p. 41, 1874.

Resolved, 2. That it is the duty of the friends of God and humanity to combine their efforts for the suppression of intemperance, and its removal from the church and the country. Vol. IV, p. 185, 1875.

Resolved, 1. That a committee be appointed by this Assembly, to meet with similar committees from other evangelical churches, to devise a plan for united effort in the cause of temperance, on the part of other churches.

3. That the committee on correspondence be instructed to correspond immediately with other churches, informing them of the appointment of the above committee, and of the time and place of meeting; and also requesting them to appoint similar committees to meet at the time and place named,

4. That our own committee be instructed to prepare a plan for our own direction in the work, if the other churches do not respond to the invitation. Vol. IV, p. 494, 1877. [For the report of this committee, see Vol. IV, p. 633, 1878.]

Resolved, 9. That * * * be appointed a permanent committee to confer with similar committees appointed by other evangelical churches with regard to the best means of securing united effort in the cause of temperance; such committee to meet at such time and place as may be agreed upon on consultation with the committees of other churches; and report their proceedings to the next General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 583, 1878.

6. **The Women's Christian Temperance Movement Endorsed.**—*Resolved*, 1. That we endorse the Women's Christian Temperance movement as the movement of the whole church—because it recognizes God, and seeks his interposition; because it assaults directly and personally, in the spirit of Jesus, the strongholds of this vice; because the movement has proved itself good, by creating a healthy public sentiment, by reducing the sale of intoxicants, by the joy it has brought to many a household, by the deliverance it has affected for many a victim, by restoring the operation of the Sabbath laws, by illustrating the power of the gospel and of prayer, and by giving new life and energy to the pulpit.

3. That the Assembly believes that the reading of the Scriptures, prayer, the singing of Psalms, and earnest religious admonition and rebuke belong exclusively to no privileged class or sex, but devolve upon all members of the church, male and female, and are to be used for the conversion of sinners and for the suppression of vice, by all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. Vol. IV, p. 41, 1874.

LXXXIV. TERMS OF COMMUNION.

1. **Explanation of the Sixteenth Article of the Testimony.**—On the memorial from the Second Synod of the West, relative to certain modifications of the sixteenth article of our Testimony, the committee on Bills and Overtures report:

It is well known to those who are familiar with the history of the church, that the faith and practice of both churches, previously to the union in which the United Presbyterian Church originated, were in accordance with the principles of restricted, in opposition to latitudinarian communion. This article did not, therefore, introduce a new principle into the United Church, but defined more explicitly than had previously been done, the ground which both parties occupied before the union was formed. And it is well known to those who took an active part in the establishment of the union, that without an article of this kind, that union which gave rise to such hallowed joy could not have been effected. And now, after this union has been brought about, as the result of much and fervent prayer, and long and laborious efforts, is it wise to endanger the peace of the church by attempting to effect a change? Does not mutual good faith require that we should abide by the covenant which brought us together?

The memorial desires the Assembly to modify the sixteenth article of our Testimony, "so as to concede to Sessions the authority of applying the principles of it, as their own discretion may direct."

Your committee are unable to see the necessity for such a modification. This authority Sessions already possess. It is supposed that Sessions are composed of men of understanding, and that they are acquainted with the principles which they have embraced; and they must of course exercise their discretion in the application of these principles as cases may occur. Sessions, of course, are responsible for the manner in which they exercise this discretion; but the right to exercise it is unquestionable.

The memorial further desires the Assembly to declare that "Sessions be not authorized to receive to communion any but such as would be received to permanent membership." To give such a deliverance is surely unnecessary. No such authority is now enjoyed; and we are not aware that any Session asks for such authority. If it should come to pass that any Session shall ask for such authority, it will then be time enough for the Assembly to say whether it shall be granted.

The sixteenth article of our Testimony lays down the general rule on the subject of communion, by which the church is to be governed in all ordinary cases. It was not designed to make provision for cases of an extraordinary nature. When cases of this kind occur, Sessions, in the exercise of a wise discretion, must dispose of them as may be for the peace and edification of the church.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sixteenth article of our Testimony defines, in a manner sufficiently explicit, the general law of the church on the subject of communion, and no modification which would change its character is required at the present time. Vol. II, p. 488, 1868.

2. **Adherence to the Standards to be Required of those Seeking Communion with the Church.**—*Resolved*, That the interests of the United Presbyterian Church demand, not the preparation of a new creed, either in form or in fact, but the faithful application of the principles contained in her standards. Vol. I, p. 61, 1859.

* * * The United Presbyterian Church has explicitly declared that an adherence to the Westminster standards, and to the declarations contained in her Testimony, will be required of those seeking communion with her. * * * The United Presbyterian Church claims to be honest in making the declarations contained in her Testimony; and those who will not give her credit for honesty in her profession, certainly could not desire to enjoy her fellowship; nor is it likely they would be satisfied with any explanation which she could give of her received principles. * * *

Resolved, That on the subject of the distinctive principles of the United Presbyterian Church, no further deliverance, than that which is contained in her Testimony for the truth, is at present necessary. Vol. I, p. 61, 1859. [Re-affirmed, Vol. I, p. 119, 1860; Vol. I, p. 355, 1862.]

The memorialists ask three questions: First. Are our distinctive principles, as well as the doctrines of grace, terms of communion? Second. Is it consistent with our standards to extend communion in sealing ordinances to persons retaining membership in churches holding principles inconsistent with our profession? Third. Should a Presbytery tolerate such practices by the ministers and Sessions under its care?

The Assembly cannot but express its surprise that such questions should ever have been propounded. It is not possible to return a more explicit affirmative answer to the first, or negative answer to the second, than is given in the Testimony of the Church, as adopted at the formation of the Union.

In the introduction to the Testimony, it is stated that an "adherence to the Westminster standards, and to the declarations contained in the following Testimony, will be required of those seeking communion with us." And in the 16th declaration, we find the following: "We declare that the church should not extend communion in sealing ordinances to those who refuse adherence to her profession, or subjection to her government and discipline, or refuse to forsake a communion inconsistent with the profession she makes." These are the authoritative statements of the doctrine and order of the church. The Assembly cannot make them any clearer or more emphatic. While the courts of the church may and ought to exercise forbearance in love towards those who cannot fully subscribe to these declarations, yet they may not tolerate determined opposition to them, or wanton practical violation of them.

The church has thus clearly set forth the law on this subject; the administration of it is left to the inferior courts. It is their manifest duty, in meekness and love, to do all they can to persuade all under under their care to walk orderly. In case, however, of violation of the law, wantonly persisted in, as the last resort, recourse must be had to regular judicial process in the proper courts. * * * The Assembly regard the Testimony of the church as sufficiently explicit. It does not appear that any deliverance that can be made will render its meaning any plainer or more pointed. The carrying out of the principles of the church is vested in the inferior courts, and not in the Assembly. Whether or not, therefore, our Testimony is duly administered, will depend on the faithfulness of Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods. Vol. I, p. 113, 1860. [Re-affirmed, Vol. I, p. 355, 1862.]

It has long since been distinctly declared by the Assembly, that what is wanted in the United Presbyterian Church, is not the amendment or modification of our ecclesiastical standards, but the exercise of brotherly love and the honest and faithful application of our avowed principles. And it is the business of the courts of the church to see that the principles embodied in these standards are faithfully applied in practice.

Resolved, That the former action of the General Assembly renders it unnecessary that any further deliverance should be given at this time, on the subjects to which the memorialists refer. Vol. I, p. 482, 1868.

Resolved, 2. That we regard it as inconsistent with that integrity which should characterize the followers of Christ to espouse a profession, and under the garb of that profession to assail its well known and acknowledged principles.

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Assembly, persons are not to be tolerated in the communion of the church avowing a determined opposition to the standards, which we are most solemnly pledged to maintain. Vol. II, p. 307, 1866.

[See also Hill's case, McCune's case, and Secret Societies.]

3. **Sessions must Exercise a Wise Discretion in Admitting Persons to the Communion of the Church.**—In the case of the admission of members, Sessions are affectionately recommended to use great tenderness towards the weak, or such as are earnestly inquiring after the truth. Vol. II, p. 31, 1864.

The memorial desires the Assembly to modify the XVIth Article of our Testimony, "so as to concede to Sessions the authority of applying the principles of it, as their own discretion may direct."

Your committee are unable to see the necessity for such a modification. This authority Sessions already possess. It is supposed that Sessions are composed of men of understanding, and that they are acquainted with the principles which they have embraced; and they must, of course, exercise their discretion in the application of these principles as cases may occur. Sessions, of course, are responsible for the manner in which they exercise this discretion; but the right to exercise it is unquestionable. * * * The XVIth Article of our Testimony lays down the general rule on the subject of communion, by which the church is to be governed in all ordinary cases. It was not designed to make provision for cases of an extraordinary nature. When cases of this kind occur, Sessions, in the exercise of a wise discretion, must dispose of them as may be for the peace and edification of the church. * * *

Resolved, That the XVIth Article of our Testimony defines, in a manner sufficiently explicit, the general law of the church on the subject of communion, and no modification which would change its character is required at the present time. Vol. II, p. 488, 1868.

4. **Forbearance in Love Defined.**—And further, she [the United Presbyterian Church] has distinctly affirmed that the forbearance in love, which the law of God requires, is to be exercised towards those who follow the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another; and not to those who determinedly oppose the standards of the church. And such forbearance has always been exercised in both branches of the united body. Vol. I, p. 61, 1859.

While the courts of the church may and ought to exercise forbearance in love towards those who cannot fully subscribe to these declarations, yet they may not tolerate determined opposition to them, or wanton practical violation of them. Vol. I, p. 113, 1860. [Re-affirmed, Vol. I, p. 355, 1862.]

And, finally, in the consummation of the union, in the joint action of the two Synods, it is distinctly declared, in reference to that forbearance which is to be exercised, that "it is agreed between the

two churches that the forbearance in love which is required by the law of God will be exercised towards any brethren who may not be able fully to subscribe the standards of the United Church, while they do not determinedly oppose them, but follow the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

Here it is very plainly declared that the forbearance which is to be exercised in love is simply that which the law of God requires; nothing less; nothing more. And does any one object to the exercise of such forbearance? Then, towards whom is this forbearance to be exercised? Not towards those who are troublers of Israel; not towards those who openly oppose the doctrines subscribed in our standards; not towards the advocates of error; but towards those whose minds, though they may not be able fully to subscribe some of our distinctive principles, are yet open to conviction; who, in the meantime, demean themselves in an orderly manner, following the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. Vol. 1, p. 118, 1860.

In answer to the second point in the memorial, we refer the brethren to the explicit statement made by the Assembly of 1860, Vol. I, pp. 113, 118, from which it will be seen that the forbearance intended to be exercised in all such cases is not of that character which in any degree gives countenance to the advocates of error, or to those who are openly opposed to the doctrines of our standards. But at the same time, we lay down this necessary rule as the result of that charity that "rejoiceth in the truth," yet "beareth long and is kind," viz.: That those who have not such a degree of light respecting any article of our distinctive principles as would lead them fully to embrace it, whose minds are yet open to conviction, who are seeking to know the truth, who are not determinedly opposing the principle, and who conduct themselves in an orderly and Christian manner, may be admitted and retained in the fellowship of the church. This has been the common faith and practice of the bodies comprising the United Presbyterian Church. Vol. I, p. 355, 1862.

LXXXV. THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES.

1. **Theological Seminaries Under the Care of the Assembly.**—[A memorial asking the Assembly to inquire into the expediency of taking the seminaries under its control and of consolidating them, was referred to a special committee. The report of this committee, which was laid on the table, closed with these resolutions:]

Resolved, 1. That it is inexpedient for the Assembly to take any steps toward assuming the immediate supervision of the theological seminaries of our church.

2. That it is not expedient to consolidate the theological seminaries into one, or even two.

3. That the committee on Overtures be directed to report what general rules should be adopted by the Assembly, for securing uniformity in conducting the theological education of the church. Vol. I, p. 441, 1862.

[The following question was overtured to Presbyteries:] Shall the General Assembly have the power of establishing and regulating the theological seminaries of the church? Vol. I, p. 361, 1862. [The vote on this overture was: Ayes, 243; nays, 230; not voting, 12. Vol. I, p. 490, 1863.]

[The report of 1862 was taken from the table by the Assembly of 1864, Vol. II, p. 9, 1864, when the following action was taken:]

WHEREAS, Your committee are informed that the Book of Government and Discipline, soon to be laid before the Assembly, contains a declaration of principles concerning the Assembly's power over and duties unto the theological seminaries of the church; therefore,

Resolved, That no action be taken by the Assembly upon this subject until after the adoption of a Book of Government and Discipline. Vol. II, p. 11, 1864.

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, feeling that the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom in her hands require that the theological seminaries of the church be under her supervision, does hereby adopt the following as a basis of action in bringing these under her control and direction: It belongs to the General Assembly—1. To determine the number and location of her seminaries. 2. To fix and arrange the course of study. 3. To determine the number of professorships, and designate the class of studies belonging to each. 4. To elect the board or boards of directors. 5. To fill the chairs, and fix the salaries of the respective professors.

In case any Synod or Synods having a seminary under their care wish to place it under the care of the General Assembly, it may be done in the following manner:

1. The constitution of said theological seminary shall remain in full force after the transfer, until the General Assembly shall prepare and adopt a new or an amended constitution.

2. That the board or boards of directors and trustees shall continue the same as at the time of the transfer, until otherwise directed by the General Assembly.

3. That the professors shall retain their respective chairs until said chairs shall be vacated by resignation, death or removal.

4. That all moneys, obligations, stocks and property, personal and real, belonging to such seminary, shall be transferred to the General Assembly, to be expended in the interests of said seminary, or consolidated seminary, into which it may be merged by the General Assembly.

5. That when the Synod or Synods owning such seminary shall have complied with the above action, and have notified the principal clerk of the General Assembly of their action in this tranfer, such seminary shall be considered thenceforward under the supervision of the General Assembly.

6. That the principal clerk shall give notice, through the papers of the church, of the transfer of such seminary or seminaries, when notified thereof.

7. That the respective Boards having control of the seminaries shall be notified of this action. Vol. III, p. 149, 1870. [The above action is known as the "Enabling Act."]

1. In the judgment of this Assembly, the theological seminary at Monmouth, Ills., has complied with the conditions of the "Enabling Act," adopted by the last Assembly, and has been placed under the control of the General Assembly; but it is inexpedient for this Assembly to perform any acts of government over that seminary. The Assembly, therefore, leaves its management for the time being with its board of directors.

2. Whereas, it is questioned whether the theological seminaries at Newburgh and Xenia have fully complied with the "Enabling Act" of the last Assembly, this Assembly declines to recognize them as under its control.

3. That the "Enabling Act" be continued in force, and amended so as to provide that—

I. No seminary shall be removed from its present locality or consolidated with any others without the consent of the Synod or Synods heretofore controlling it.

II. That the responsibility of providing for the pecuniary support of any seminary shall not rest on the General Assembly, but each one on its board of directors.

III. That the title to the property of each seminary shall be vested in a board of trustees, in the place where the seminary is located, appointed by a board of directors elected by the General Assembly.

IV. In order to a complete transfer, all the property, which the Synod or Synods controlling any seminary have a right to transfer, must be placed under the control of the General Assembly; but no transfer shall be deemed complete, until all the seminaries have been transferred, according to the terms of the "Enabling Act," as hereby amended.

4. In expectation that all the seminaries of the church shall be placed under the control of the General Assembly, this Assembly refers the statutes reported by the joint committee to the next Assembly, and requires all seminaries that may be placed under Assembly's control to report to that Assembly.

5. In the judgment of this Assembly the authority vested in the General Assembly by the Form of Government, Art. IV, Sec. 3, include—

I. The confirming of the election of professors by directors or Synods.

II. The fixing of the term, sessions and course of study.

III. The regulation and conduct of examinations. Vol. III, p. 258, 1871.

Resolved, 1. That the "Enabling Act" of the Twelfth General Assembly, as amended by the Thirteenth, be continued in force, in the hope that the way may yet be made clear for placing all our seminaries more completely under the care of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 528, 1873.

Resolved, 2. That a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to tender to the respective Synods, at their approaching meetings, the provisions of the "Enabling Act" of 1870, and request favorable action in reference to the transfer of the theological seminaries to the care of the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 27, 1874.

WHEREAS, Six out of the eight Synods of the church have approved of the transfer of the seminaries to the control of the General Assembly, according to the terms of the "Enabling Act" of 1870 and 1871; and,

WHEREAS, The interest of theological education in the United Presbyterian Church requires such transfer; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the "Enabling Act" be recognized as still in force.

2. That a committee of three be appointed by this Assembly to bring the whole subject before the Synods that have not yet approved this measure, and in case they act favorably, to report to the next Assembly statutes for the government of the seminaries, and a plan for completing the transfer. Vol. IV, p. 185, 1875.

It appears, from the report of the committee placed in our hands, that the Synod of New York judges such transfer inexpedient at the present time. The Synod of Ohio has given no deliverance upon the subject. The First Synod of the West has rescinded her action, previously taken, approving of the transfer. We recommend the following:

Resolved, That this Assembly refer the whole subject to some future General Assembly, when the action of the Synods may appear more favorable. Vol. IV, p. 319, 1876.

2. **Consolidation of Theological Seminaries.**——[This subject was discussed by a committee of the Assembly, Vol. I, p. 440, 1862.]

Resolved, That the Synods be requested to report to the next Assembly, whether they are in favor of uniting the theological seminaries of our church into one or two; and, if in favor, then report the conditions of such consolidation. Vol. II, p. 309, 1866. [Several Synods reported, but no action seems to have been taken by the Assembly.]

3. **Proposed Statutes for the Government of Theological Seminaries.**—[Such statutes were prepared by a committee appointed for this purpose, and published by order of the Assembly. Vol. III, p. 258, 1871.]

4. **Curriculum of Study in Theological Seminaries.**—[A committee, appointed with a view of securing uniformity in the curriculum of our colleges and seminaries, presented a report to the Assembly of 1866, Vol. II, p. 308, 1866, which was recommitted. The committee reported to the Assembly of 1867, Vol. II, p. 421, 1867, when their report was referred to the next Assembly, by which it was adopted.]

Resolved, 4. That the course of study shall be,—

I. The reading and critical analysis of the Bible in the original languages, as a regular exercise throughout the whole course.

II. Biblical History and Antiquities.

III. Sacred Geography and Chronology.

IV. Ecclesiastical History and Church Government.

V. Systematic, Didactic and Polemic Theology.

VI. Sacred Rhetoric.

VII. Pastoral Theology.

VIII. Composition and Delivery of Discourses.
IX. Evidences of Christianity.
X. Lectures on Experimental and Practical Religion. Vol. II, p. 487, 1868.

Resolved, 3. That the course of study should be carefully arranged so as to include all the essential parts of a complete course, suited to the demands of the times, of exegetical, systematic, historical and pastoral theology.

4. That the professors in our seminaries be requested to take this subject into immediate and careful consideration; and, at their earliest convenience, to meet for the arrangement of such a course of study, and the designation of text-books to be used in it; this meeting not to be later than on the first Wednesday in August, so as to give due time for doing all that may be judged practicable or desirable in the matter, and announcing the result before the opening of the next session; their conclusions to be reported to the next Assembly for approval or amendment. Vol. III, p. 528, 1873.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.—*Resolved*, 1. That it is inexpedient to designate any special text-book in the department of systematic theology, aside from the Scriptures and our subordinate standards, to which, of course, constant reference should be had; and that it is wise to allow, in the method of instruction, a wide latitude for the individual tastes and preferences of the professors.

2. That the entire sytem of theology be divided into three sections, which shall be studied in their order, in as many sessions, so as to complete, in three years, the entire regular course, and that the same section be studied each year in all the seminaries, the first section to close with the topic of the Divine Decrees, the second with that of the Offices of Christ, the third to end with the close of the commonly recognized system.

3. That, whereas, it is ascertained that in three of the seminaries the second of the aforesaid sections would, according to present arrangements, form the subject of instruction during the next session, therefore that section shall be the subject of tuition in all the seminaries during the ensuing regular session.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND HISTORY.—*Resolved*, 1. That the attention of the students during the first session be occupied with the history of the Old Testament Church; during the second, the organization of the New Testament Church and its history to the Reformation; and during the third, the Reformation and the history following to the present time.

2. That the Bible, with Kurtz, or such other works as may be considered useful in different parts of the course, be used as text-books.

BIBLICAL CRITICISM AND HERMENEUTICS.—*Resolved*, 1. That as far as possible the Greek Testament shall be read over in the course of three years—the gospels forming the section for the first year; the Acts, with the Epistles to the Romans and the Corinthians for the second year; and thence to the close of the New Testament, for the third year; and that, in addition, certain portions be selected, each session, for particular exegetical examination.

2. That, in view of present arrangements in the seminaries, the second of the foregoing sections shall form the subject of study for the ensuing session.

3. That the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures shall be in the following order of sections; namely: the historical books in the first session; the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon in the second, and the remaining books in the third session—the professors to exercise their discretion in selecting from time to time portions within the divisions just specified, and that the first section furnish the subject of study during the ensuing session.

4. That in the department of biblical criticism and hermeneutics, the professors shall, by lectures or otherwise, labor to familiarize the students under their care with the great questions claiming consideration in connection with these subjects.

PASTORAL THEOLOGY.—*Resolved*, That in the department of pastoral theology the course shall be divided into three parts, one for each session, in the following order; namely: for the first year the Directory for Church Government; for the second year homiletics; it being understood, however, that each student shall have exercises in the composition and delivery of sermons, in reading and public speaking, through the whole course of the seminary; and for the third, the Directory for Worship and the pastoral work generally.

ADVANCED COURSE.—*Resolved*, That the licentiates shall be required to give special attention to present forms of skepticism and unbelief, church discipline, exercises in sacred rhetoric, and whatever else may be needed to complete their seminary training for the work of the ministry in both the home and foreign fields. Vol. IV, p. 87, 1874.

5. **Term of Study in Theological Seminaries.**—*Resolved*, 1. That the term of study in our theological seminaries shall be three years, and the length of the sessions seven months, commencing on the first Tuesday of September, and terminating on the fourth Thursday of March Vol. II, p. 486, 1868.

Resolved, 6. That the term of study in all our seminaries shall be four annual sessions of six months each, beginning on the first Tuesday of October, annually, and that Presbyteries should enjoin on their students, and secure from them, all reasonable diligence in study during the vacations of the seminaries. Vol. III, p. 258, 1871.

Resolved, 1. That this General Assembly hereby modifies the regulations adopted by the last General Assembly requiring four terms of theological study of six months each, by substituting three terms of seven months each, and an advanced course, which shall be optional, for students of the fourth year. Vol. III, p. 422, 1872.

Resolved, 1. That the term of study, prior to licensure, in our seminaries be three years of seven months each, beginning on the first Wednesday of October.

2. That for the benefit of licentiates who have gone through the aforesaid term, there shall be an advanced course of three months, beginning on the first Wednesday of October. Vol. IV, p. 86, 1874.

Resolved, That hereafter the seminary sessions begin on the first Wednesday of September, and continue seven months. Vol. IV, p. 319, 1876.

6. **Examination of Students in Theological Seminaries.**—*Resolved*, 5. That the examination in our seminaries be conducted with written questions, to be prepared for each seminary under the direction of its board of superintendents; these questions, for each session, to cover the subjects studied in it, and to be put into the hands of the students at its close for written answers, and that for an approved examination satisfactory answers to at least two-thirds of the questions proposed be required. In cases of failure, a second examination may be allowed at a convenient time. Vol. III, p. 528, 1873.

7. **Election of Theological Professors Confirmed.**—Took up the reports of the Second Synod, and of the Synod of New York, in relation to the election of professors to their respective theological seminaries; and the action of these respective Synods was confirmed. Vol. III, p. 381, 1872.

Resolved, That the election of Rev. J. G. Carson, D. D., Rev. J. B. M'Michael and Rev. W. G. Moorhead to their respective chairs in the theological seminary at Xenia, be and hereby is confirmed. Vol. IV, p. 319, 1876.

LXXXVI. TITLE TO CHURCH PROPERTY.

Resolved, 1. * * * That the following clause be inserted in every deed of conveyance of property: "In trust that said premises shall be used and kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine worship, for the use of the ministers and members of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, subject to the standards and acts of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Assembly of said church; and in case the congregation should cease to exist, or to be connected with, and subject to the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of said church, or shall lose its corporate existence, the property shall enure in all its holdings to the Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America."

2. It is also earnestly recommended that existing charters be changed to conform to this formula and clause in the deed.

3. That the General Assembly in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Watson vs. Jenner, instruct Presbyteries and congregations that the control and possession of church property belongs only to the members holding to the principles of the United Presbyterian Church, and that it will require a unanimous vote of the Session and congregation to sell, dispose of, or alienate said church property; it being understood that this action does not prevent congregations from disposing of church property for the purpose of rebuilding, or the erection of a new building in a new location. Vol. III, p. 523, 1873

LXXXVII. TOBACCO.

The Use of Tobacco.—*Resolved*, That the use of tobacco is demoralizing in its tendency, and should, therefore, be discountenanced by all who profess the Christian religion. Vol. III, p. 159, 1870.

The memorial of certain ladies of Monmouth, in reference to the use of tobacco, presents a matter of great importance, and one worthy of the serious consideration of this Assembly; therefore,

Resolved, That this Assembly heartily endorse the sentiments set forth in the memorial; that we hail this memorial as the harbinger of a better day, we trust not far distant, when the energies of the church shall be turned against the use of tobacco, as they are now against the use of intoxicating liquors; and that said memorial be published in the papers of the church. Vol. IV, p. 42, 1874.

LXXXVIII. TREASURERS.

1. **Treasurer of the Assembly pro tem.**—The principal clerk was directed to act as treasurer *pro tem.*, when the treasurer of the General Assembly was absent. Vol. IV, p. 434, 1877.

2. **The Election and Duties of the Treasurers of the Boards.**—3. The several Boards shall elect annually all other necessary officers, [*i. e.* all officers except the corresponding secretary,] and shall require such security of their treasurers as may in each case be judged necessary.

7. The treasurers of the different Boards shall keep accounts, in proper form, of all moneys, whether for the general work, or special funds, and shall, through the Board, report annually to the General Assembly the exact condition of the several funds, giving a detailed and classified statement of all receipts and disbursments, which shall be published in the minutes of the General Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

3. **The Treasurers to Keep their Accounts with Presbyteries, and not with Congregations.**—*Resolved*, 6. That our treasurers be recommended to keep their accounts of moneys received, except in special cases, with Presbyteries, through the financial agents, returning their receipts to the financial agents from the bounds of whose Presbyteries the funds are contributed.

7. That financial agents be directed to cease, except in special cases, asking the treasurers to credit particular churches and individuals, and to ask only that funds be accredited to their several Presbyteries. Vol. I, p. 494, 1863.

Resolved, That congregations or individuals, forwarding subscriptions to the various Boards, should do so through the financial agents of their respective Presbyteries, and that the treasurers of such Boards acknowledge the same as received from such Presbyteries. Vol. II, p. 162, 1865.

4. **The Treasurers to Publish their Receipts.**—*Resolved*, 1. That treasurers publish their receipts monthly in detail in the papers of the church. Vol. II, p. 322, 1866.

Resolved, 3. * * * That financial agents be directed to acknowledge, by publishing in detail all moneys received by them, and that it be no part of the duty of the general treasurers to publish receipts of funds. Vol. III, p. 416, 1872

5. **A Classified Summary of the Reports of the Treasurers to be Published.**—*Resolved*, That a summary of the reports of the treasurers of the various Boards of the church be published with the minutes, and that the committee on Finance be instructed to prepare this summary for publication. Vol. II, p. 21, 1864.

Resolved, 2. That they report to the Assembly only the summaries of receipts, so as to show the amount received from each Presbytery and from legacies and special donations, and also of expenditures under general heads; as salaries, buildings, traveling expenses, &c., so as to show clearly the use made of the money intrusted to their care. Vol. II, p. 322, 1866.

Resolved, 3. That the treasurers of the several Boards of the church be and are hereby directed to classify contributions in their annual report, so as to show the amount received from each Presbytery, and from Sabbath Schools, individual donors, bequests, &c. Vol. III, p. 416, 1872.

Resolved, 8. That the treasurers of the different Boards and funds of the church be instructed to present printed classified reports, showing the amount received from each Presbytery, from legacies, Sabbath Schools, missionary societies, and individuals, also the expenditures, the same to be published in tabular form in the minutes. Vol. III, p. 535, 1873.

Resolved, 3. That the treasurers of the several Boards of the church be directed to furnish the clerks of the Assembly, for publication in the minutes, a classified report of the receipts and expenditures for the year, within two weeks after the adjournment of the Assembly. Vol. IV, p. 21, 1874.

6. **The Reports of the Treasurers to be Audited.**—*Resolved*, 2. That the accounts of each Board shall be audited by not less than two members of the Board, and that vouchers shall, in all cases, accompany the reports. Vol. III, p. 23, 1869.

Resolved, 4. That, hereafter, all the Boards of the church be requested to conform to the direction of the Assembly, in reference to the auditing of their treasurers' reports. Vol. IV, p. 21, 1874.

It shall be the duty of each Board to audit its treasurer's accounts at the close of each year. Vol. IV, p. 22, 1874.

LXXXIX.—TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATIONS.

The Relation of Trustees and Sessions to Church Property.—*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by this Assembly, who shall have prepared and presented to the next General Assembly a paper defining these offices in their relation to any church over which they are placed, and their power to control its property and temporalities generally. Vol. III, p. 389, 1872.

Resolved, 3. That the General Assembly, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case

of Watson vs. Jenner, instruct Presbyteries and congregations that the control and possession of church property belongs only to the members holding to the principles of the United Presbyterian Church, and that it will require a unanimous vote of the Session and congregation to sell, dispose of, or alienate said church property; it being understood that this action does not prevent congregations from disposing of church property for the purpose of rebuilding, or the erection of a new building in a new location.

4. That in every church, the trustrees shall be in full communion with the church, and that the use of the church building for public worship, and all other meetings, shall be under the direction and control of the Session of the church. Vol. III, p. 523, 1873.

XC.—TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Duties of the Trustees of the General Assembly.—*Resolved*, 1. That a committee consisting of one from each Synod be appointed to nominate * * * persons to be elected a Board of Trustees of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. It shall be the duty of said Trustees to act as corporators, who shall take the proper steps to procure from the State of Pennsylvania articles of incorporation for said General Assembly, under which said Trustees shall hold in trust, for the use and benefit of the several funds of the church, all lands, tenements, permanent funds and other property, under the supervision and direction of the General Assembly.

2. That said Trustees be requested, as soon as possible, to prepare, under good legal counsel, in conformity to the laws of the States, blank forms for bequests to the various funds of the church, and that they shall secure their permanent publication in all the periodicals of the church, in connection with a full statement of all the benevolent objects to which the church is expected to contribute. Vol. I, p. 37, 1859.

[For the act of incorporation, see General Assembly.]

XCI. UNION OF ASSOCIATE AND ASSOCIATE REFORMED CHURCHES.

Union of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches.—[At different times, the Associate and Associate Reformed Synods entered into correspondence with reference to a union, but without definite results. At length a basis of union was prepared by a convention of members of the Reformed Churches, held in Pittsburgh, Pa., April 11, 1855, and was submitted to their respective Synods. Evangelical Repository, 1855, p. 641. It was amended and adopted by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church. Minutes, 1855, pp. 29, 30, 33, 34, For the basis thus amended, see minutes of the Associate Synod, 1855, pp. 109-111. In the Associate Synod the following action was taken:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the church of Jesus Christ is bound, as a faithful witness for the truth, to exhibit plainly and explicitly all the prin-

ciples of her public profession in a creed or confession, and that there are times when these principles are assailed and misrepresented, when it becomes the duty of the church to declare, explain and defend them by the emission of a testimony, which latter is to be made a term of communion only so far as it contains the principles of the church's confession, and is necessary or useful in ascertaining and determining what the true principles of the confession are.

"2. That in addition to the above principles, we express our hearty approbation of the distinctive testimony-bearing of our forefathers of the Secession in Scotland, and, also, particularly in this country, our firm adherence to the same duty, and belief that there are, now at least, as great causes for the duty as formerly.

"3. That, in the judgment of this Synod, the proposal of the Pittsburgh convention, to carry with them the Testimony of the Associate Church, the occasional testimonies of the Associate Reformed Church, with other documents issued by these churches, out of all which there should be hereafter prepared fixed standards, leaves the principles of the church uncertain, and in a state of imminent peril.

"4. That we judge it premature to overture the said basis; but we are willing to continue our correspondence with these brethren for the purpose of preparing permanent standards for the church, of which the articles agreed upon at Pittsburgh shall constitute a part.

"5. That in accordance with the mutual agreement and understanding of the Associate and Associate Reformed Synods, respecting the matter of a testimony for the United Church, besides the subjects embraced in the five articles recently adopted at Pittsburgh, we present the following additional subjects, on which articles should be prepared for insertion in the Testimony, viz.: The Plenary Inspiration of the Scriptures; the Sonship and Deity of Christ; the Covenant of Works; the Fall of Man; the Obligation of the Covenant of Works upon Men in their Natural Estate; the Suretyship and Satisfaction of Christ; the Nature of Faith and Repentance; the Gospel Offer; Imputed Righteousness for Justification; Believer's Deliverance from the Law; the Work of the Holy Spirit, and the Headship of Christ." 1855, p. 109.

The following resolutions were also adopted:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the Synod approves of the five articles on Psalmody, Communion, Slave-holding, Covenanting, and Secret Societies, adopted by the convention in Pittsburgh, as amended on the article on Secret Societies by substituting, "members of this church shall have no fellowship," &c., instead of "members of the church should," &c., as suitable to be incorporated in the testimony of the United Church.

"2. That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a testimony embracing the articles of the convention, and such others as they may deem necessary, and that said committee be empowered to correspond with the delegates of the Associate Reformed Church, and General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and that the committee report on the first day of the next meeting of Synod." 1855, p. 111.

The basis prepared by this committee was amended, and the following action was taken: Ayes, 110; nayes, 19.

"*Resolved*, 1. That we approve of the Testimony, as amended, as a basis of union with the Associate Reformed and the other sister church with which we have been negotiating for union.

"2. That it be transmitted to the Associate Reformed Synod, and if approved by them, sent down in overture to the Presbyteries and Sessions, to report thereon at the next meeting of the Synod. 1856, p. 98.

The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church took the following action, one vote being recorded in the negative:

"WHEREAS, The union of the different portions of the church of Christ in one body, as far as practicable, is a most desirable object; and,

"WHEREAS, The Associate Presbyterian Church has presented to this Synod a basis of union, on which it is proposed to unite these two churches in one body; and,

"WHEREAS, This document, though it may contain some things in relation to which there is some diversity of opinion among brethren who are united in their adherence to the great truths of the gospel, and which, therefore, might properly be made matters of forbearance; yet as the declarations, which are the terms of communion, contain nothing which is inconsistent with our ecclesiastical standards; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That this basis be cordially recommended to the prayerful consideration of the Presbyteries under our care, that they may report their judgment thereon, either adopting it as it is, or proposing such amendments as may seem to them necessary, to render it more perfect." 1856, p. 13.

For the votes of the Presbyteries on this overture, see Associate Synod, 1857, p. 75; Associate Reformed General Synod, 1857, pp. 23–25.

The Associate Synod took the following action: Ayes, 104; nays, 13; not voting, 10.

"WHEREAS, A large majority of the Presbyteries are in favor of adopting, even though no amendments be made; therefore,

"*Resolved*, 1. That the basis be and hereby is adopted as a basis of union with the Associate Reformed Church: the declarations without amendment, and the argument and illustration in their amended form.

"2. That it be transmitted to the Associate Reformed Synod for their concurrence." 1857, p. 76.

This action, as submitted to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, contained the following additional words: "As a guide to the meaning of the declarations;" the committee being well assured that they had been adopted, although not found in the official record. 1857, p. 76, *note*.

The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, adopted the following: Ayes, 66; nays, 36; not voting, 7.

"WHEREAS, The consummation of a union of the Associate and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches is a high duty and of

great importance to the maintenance of the peculiar principles held in common by these churches; and,

"WHEREAS, The Testimony proposed to us by the Associate Church as a basis of union contains no principle which is not already embodied in the standards of the Associate Reformed Church, or has in some form received her sanction; and,

"WHEREAS, It is not doubted that the wisdom of the United Church will effect any modification of the Form of Church Government, or the Directory for Worship of the Westminster standards, necessary to harmonize them with the common faith and practice of the two churches, or any desirable modification of the formula of questions to applicants; and,

"WHEREAS, A majority of the Presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Church have declared themselves in favor of receiving the basis as it is, rather than to fail of obtaining this union; and,

"WHEREAS, It is believed that the great mass of the people in both of these churches anxiously desire it; and that their spiritual interests urgently require its speedy consummation; and,

"WHEREAS, Finally, it is to be feared that if the present overture should be rejected, the accomplishment of this object will be long postponed, and the heart-burnings and contentions between these churches, in former years, be to some extent revived, and similar evils be produced among ourselves; therefore,

"*Resolved*, 1. That the Associate Reformed Church does hereby declare her acceptance of the Testimony proposed as a basis of union by the Associate Synod, and overtured by the General Synod of 1856 to the Presbyteries, in the confidence that any modifications or amendments necessary to harmonize said basis with the faith and practice held in common by the two churches, or render it more entirely acceptable, will be in due time effected by the United Church; and in the confidence that reasonable forbearance will be exercised towards any member of either body that may feel constrained to dissent from any article in the basis.

"2. That a committee of one minister from each subordiuate Synod be appointed to communicate this action to the Associate Synod, and in conjunction with a similar committee of that Synod, if it shall see proper to appoint one, to agree upon and recommend the necessary measures for the immediate consummation of this union." 1857, p. 11.

The General Synod also adopted the amendments to the basis submitted by the Associate Synod, 1857, pp. 12–20.

This action of General Synod being received, the Associate Synod adopted the following:

"WHEREAS, The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church has accepted the basis which has been in overture, as a basis of union; and

"WHEREAS, They have repeatedly re-affirmed that the doctrines contained in this Testimony are those to which they adhere; and,

"WHEREAS, We believe the time has arrived, in the good providence of God, when the unhappy division which has long separated these sister churches should be healed; therefore,

"*Resolved*, 1. That we cordially reciprocate the confidence expressed by these brethren respecting mutual forbearance, it being distinctly understood that under the plea of reasonable forbearance no one be permitted to teach or to act in opposition to the doctrine of the United Church.

"2. That a committee of five be appointed by this Synod, to act conjointly with any committee of the Associate Reformed Synod, and empowered to make all necessary arrangements as to time, place and manner for the final consummation of this union.

"3. That we have great reason to express our gratitude to God who has led these churches to such a happy result in their efforts for union." 1857, p. 85.

And also the following resolutions:

"WHEREAS, The union of the Reformed churches has been for many years the subject of very serious and prayerful consideration, both with individuals and church courts, which we trust has been blessed of God to the end of effecting such a degree of Christian unity as warrants their union in one body; therefore,

"*Resolved*, 1. That without reference to any past deliverances of either of these bodies, any farther than said deliverances indicate our oneness, we hereby agree to unite on the Westminster Confession of Faith received in the Testimony of the United Church, Catechisms, Larger and Shorter, Form of Presbyterial Church Government and Directory for the worship of God, with such modifications as may be found necessary from the word of God, together with the testimony technically known as the Basis of Union, as the doctrinal standard and terms of communion of the United Church.

"2. That in respect to any brethren now in either of these churches, who may not be able fully to subscribe these standards, forbearance in love is required by the law of God, while they do not openly oppose, but practically conform themselves to those standards, and follow the things that make for peace, and the things whereby one may edify another." 1858, p. 67.

Also, as explanatory of the action taken:

"*Resolved*, That as there is, in the preamble to the resolutions for the consummation of the union, a reference to former deeds of the two Synods, which, in the view of some, might be understood as limiting our acceptance of the basis as a term of communion in the United Church, we hereby disclaim any such interpretation of it, and declare that our union with the General Associate Reformed Synod shall be predicated upon this understanding of said preamble." 1858, p. 72.

The report of the joint committee was amended and adopted by each Synod, and is known as THE ADOPTING ACT. In the Associate Synod the vote on the first part of the preamble was, ayes, 117; nays, 44; not voting, 7. Of those voting in the negative, nine afterwards formally withdrew their dissent. 1858, pp. 66, 78, 85. The final vote in the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church was, ayes, 93; nays, 4. The Adopting Act is as follows:

"WHEREAS, It is understood that the Testimony submitted to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, by the Asso-

ciate Synod, was proposed and accepted as a term of communion, on the adoption of which, the union of the two churches was to be consummated; and,

"WHEREAS, It is agreed between the two churches that the forbearance in love which is required by the law of God will be exercised towards any brethren who may not be able fully to subscribe the standards of the United Church, while they do not determinedly oppose them, but follow the things which make for peace, and things whereby one may edify another;

"*Resolved*, 1. That these churches, when united, shall be called 'THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.'

"2. That the respective Presbyteries of these churches shall remain as at present constituted, until otherwise ordered, as convenience shall suggest.

"3. That the Supreme Court of this Church shall be a General Assembly, to meet annually, to be composed of delegates from the respective Presbyteries, the number of delegates to be according to the proportion of the members constituting each Presbytery, as now fixed by the rules of the Associate Reformed Church, until a change shall be found expedient.

"4. That there shall be subordinate Synods, and these shall be the same as those now existing in the Associate Reformed Church, to which Synods the different Presbyteries in the Associate Church shall attach themselves for the present, according to their location, provided that the separate Synods and Presbyteries of the said Associate Reformed and Associate Churches shall also continue as at present constituted, until otherwise directed.

"5. That the General and subordinate Synods shall be regulated according to the rules presently in force in the Associate Reformed Church, until the United Church shall see fit to alter such rules.

"6. That the different Boards and institutions of the respective churches shall not be affected by this union, but shall have the control of their funds and retain all their corporate, or other rights and privileges, until the interests of the church shall require a change.

"7. That these and other regulations found necessary, being agreed upon by the respective Synods at the present meeting in the city of Allegheny, the two Synods shall meet at such a place as shall mutually be agreed upon, and after addresses by Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Pressly, Rev. Mr. Smart and Rev. Mr. Prestley, be constituted with prayer by the senior moderator, after which a moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the United Church." Associate Synod, 1858, p. 77; Associate Reformed General Synod, 1858, p. 29.

The arrangements for the formal consummation of the union, prepared by a joint committee, were adopted by each Synod, and also the following in relation to the meeting of the first General Assembly:

"*Resolved*, 3. That the first United General Synod be held in Xenia, Ohio, on the third Wednesday of May, 1859, at 7½ o'clock, P. M." Associate Synod, 1858, p. 75; Associate Reformed General Synod, 1858, p. 33.]

In pursuance of the joint action of the Associate Reformed and Associate Synods on the subject of union, these Synods met on the 20th of May, 1858, in the City Hall, Pittsburgh, for the consummation of their union.

Having adjourned at their respective places of meeting, the two Synods met at the corner of Smithfield and Seventh streets, and marched in procession to City Hall in double file—one consisting of the members of the Associate Reformed Synod, and the other of the members of the Associate Synod. In the Hall, the services were introduced with an earnest and impressive prayer by Rev. J. T. Cooper, D. D.

After some time spent in hearing addresses suited to the occasion by Drs. Rodgers and Pressly, and Revs. J. Smart and J. Prestley, and in prayer and praise, Rev. D. C. McLaren, D. D., moderator of the Associate Reformed Synod, on motion to that effect, extended, in the name of his brethren, to Rev. J. T. Cooper, D. D., moderator of the Associate Synod, the right hand of fellowship, accompanying the action with a brief and very appropriate address, to which the latter made a very impressive response.

The first Synod of the United Presbyterian Church was then, according to the previous arrangement, constituted with prayer by Dr. McLaren—the senior of the two moderators.

Rev. J. T. Pressly, D. D., was chosen moderator, and Rev. S. Wilson, clerk, *pro tem.*

On motion of Rev. J. P. Smart, the Synod adjourned to meet in Xenia, on the third Wednesday of May, 1859, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Closed with the benediction by the moderator. Associate Synod, 1858, p. 100. Associate Reformed General Synod, 1858, p. 64.

XCII. WEEK OF PRAYER.

Resolved, 6. Feeling that God has approved and signally blessed the exercises in connection with the world's prayer meetings, we would recommend that the second week of January, 1862, be spent in religious exercises. Vol. I, p. 216, 1861.

Resolved, 1. Believing that the world's prayer meetings, which have been held by various Christian denominations for several years past, have been productive of much good, we recommend that the second week of January, 1863, be observed as a week of prayer by the people under our care. Vol. I, p. 353, 1862.

Resolved, 11. That in view of the signal blessings that followed the special season of prayer during the past winter, and the need which there is at home and abroad for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that all our churches be urged to observe the week of prayer in the beginning of 1867. Vol. II, p. 302, 1866.

Resolved, 9. That we renew our recommendation to all our congregations to spend the first week of January in supplicating the outpouring of the Divine Spirit upon the church and the world. Vol. II, p. 416, 1867.

XCIII. WILSON'S APPEAL.

[For the Appeal of Rev. Samuel Wilson and others, see McCune's case.]

XCIV. WOMEN TAKING PART IN PUBLIC RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

Resolved, 3. That the Assembly believes that the reading of the Scriptures, prayer, the singing of Psalms, and earnest religious admonition and rebuke belong exclusively to no privileged class or sex, but devolve on all members of the church, male and female, and are to be used for the conversion of sinners and for the suppression of vice, by all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. Vol. IV, p. 41, 1874.

INDEX.

Abstinence, total, 202.
Admonition, 43.
Aged Ministers' Fund, 148.
Agents of the Board of Church Extension:
  Presbyterial, 91.
  Special, 91.
Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 96.
Amendments to the Book of Government and Discipline, 85.
Amendments to motions in the Assembly, 73.
Amusements, 76.
Annuity, contributions to the Board of Church Extension subject to, 91.
Anthems, 92, 93.
Appeals, 48.
  Definition of, 48.
  Ground of, 48.
  Notice of and reasons, 48.
  Necessary papers, 48.
  Order of procedure, 48.
  Different issues, 49.
  Action of appellate court, 49.
  Troublesome appellants, 49.
  Abandoned, 49.
  Operation of, 49.
  May be refused, 49.
  Parties to, 48, 76.
  Corrections allowed in papers of, 76.
  In peculiar cases directly to the Assembly, 78.
  New evidence in, 42.
  Proposed amendment to the article on, 78, 85, 127.
  Rights of members of lower courts in cases of, 47, 77.
  On marriage with a deceased wife's sister, 144.
  Of Rev. R. Gailey, 124.
  Of Rev. H. Gordon, 127.
  Of Adam Green, 128.
  Of Eleanor, Jane L., and Catharine Marshall, 145.
  Of Rev. S. Wilson, 146, 223.
Appellate power of the Assembly, 18, 127.
Arbitration, national, 156.
Arian baptism, 80.
Assembly—see General Assembly.
Assistant clerk of the Assembly:
  Election of, 69, 94.
  Term of office of, 69, 94.
  Salary of, 94.
Associate Church:
  Union with the Associate Reformed Church, 217.
  Funds of, 80.
  Old records of, 155.
Associate Reformed Church:
  Union with the Associate Church, 217.
  Old records of, 155.
Associate Reformed Synod of the South, 78.
  Correspondence with, 78.
  Co-operation with, 78.
  Union with, 80.
Ayes and Nays, 75.

Baptism, 59, 80.
  Subjects of, 59.
  Place of, 59.
  Mode of, 59.
  Arian, 80.
  Papal, 81.
  Formula of questions for, 59, 60, 81.
Bellefonte system of contributions, 200.
Benediction, 61.
Beneficiaries of the Board of Education:
  To be reported to the Assembly, 108.
  Married, 108.
  Examination of, 108.
Bequests, 142.
Bible:
  In the public schools, 81, 85.
  In public worship, 57.
Bible fund, 171, 174.
Bills and Overtures, committee on, 71.
Blanks:
  For the committee on Narrative and State of Religion, 154.
  For Financial Agents, 111.
  For reports of Presbyteries, 154.
  For statistics, 196.
Boards of the Church, 81.
  Committee on, 71.
  Conference on, 83.
  Constitution of, 81.

Corresponding Secretaries to be ex-officio members of, 82, 97.
Monthly statements of, 83.
Reports of, to be printed, 83.
Of Church Extension, 87.
Of Education, 103.
Of Foreign Missions, 111.
Of Missions to the Freedmen, 120.
Of Home Missions, 130.
Of Ministerial Relief, 148.
Of Publication, 170.
Book of Government and Discipline, 13.
Preparation of, 83.
Adoption of, 85.
Amended, 85.
Burial of the dead, 67.
Business, Assembly's order of, 72.

Call for a pastor:
Moderation of, 25.
Signers of, 26.
Sustained, 26.
Presented, 26.
Form of, 51.
Catechizing, 65.
Censures, 43.
Character of, 43.
Degrees of, 43.
Admonition, 43.
Rebuke, 43.
Suspension, 43.
Deposition, 44.
Excommunication, 44.
Centennial of the nation, 85.
Certificates of church members, 23.
Withheld, 147.
Form of, 51.
Chanting, 92.
Charges:
Form of, 36,
Tabled, 36.
Specific, 37.
Admissibility of, 37.
Relevancy of, 37.
Full record of, 38.
Charters:
Of the Assembly, 124.
Of the Board of Church Extension, 87.
Of the Board of Education, 103.
Of the Board of Foreign Missions, 111.
Of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen, 120.
Of the Board of Home Missions, 130.
Of the Board of Ministerial Relief, 149.
Of the Board of Publication, 170.
Of congregations, 86.
Children of foreign missionaries, 115, 116.
Children of professors, 14.
Chinese mission in California, 117.
Christian Commission, 86.
Christ's second coming, 87.
Church, the, 14.
Visible and invisible, 14.
King of, 14.
Ends of, 14.
Members of, 14.
Officers of, 14.
Courts of, 15.
Church dues, 124.
Church Extension, Board of, 87.
Charter of, 87.
Constitution of, 89.
Regulations of, 89.
Presbyterial agents of, 91.
Not to appoint special agents, 91.
Loan fund of, 90.
Presbyterial supervision of church building, 91.
Presbyterial supervision of property of extinct churches, 92.
Special loan fund of, 91.
Temporary loans to, 91.
Contributions to, subject to annuity, 91.
Securities to be given to, 90.
To issue and guarantee bonds, 91.
Consolidation of, with other Boards, 137.
Salary of corresponding secretary, 187.
Salary of treasurer, 188.
Churches:
Confederation of Evangelical, 95.
Corresponding, 96.
Church Music:
Under the control of the Session, 58, 92.
Instrumental, 58, 93.
Church of Rome, 177.
Church property:
Under the control of the Session, 179, 216.
Title to, 86, 214.
Deeds of, 86.
Clerks of church courts, 20.
Clerks of the Assembly, 94.
Principal, 69, 94.
Principal, treasurer of the Assembly pro tem., 215.
Second, 69, 94.
Assistant, 69, 94.
Term of office, 20, 69.
To superintend the publication of the Minutes, 75, 152.
To prepare an Index of the Minutes, 153.
Salary of, 94.
Commissioners to the Assembly:
Credentials of, 19, 127.
Form of credentials of, 53,

Expenses of, 99.
Not to absent themselves, 127.
Commissions in cases of discipline, 19.
Committees:
General, of Home Missions, 133.
Of the whole, 72.
Committees, permanent:
On Credentials, 71.
On Narrative and State of Religion, 95, 154.
On Old Records, 155.
On Sabbath Schools, 95, 180.
Expenses of, 95.
Committees, standing, 70.
On Bills and Overtures, 71.
On the Boards, 71.
On Correspondence, 71.
On Devotional Exercises, 71.
On Finance, 71.
On Judiciary, 71.
On Narrative and State of Religion, 71.
On Nominations, 71.
On Revision, 71.
On Sabbath Schools, 71.
On Statistics, 71.
On Systematic Beneficence, 200,
Common fame, 35.
Communion, terms of, 204.
Deliverance on the 16th article of the Testimony, 204.
Complaints, 49.
Definition of, 36, 49.
When proper, 49.
Effects of, 49.
Mode of procedure, 50.
Confederation of Presbyterian Churches, 95.
Conference on the Boards, 83.
Congregational charters, 86.
Congregationalism, 13.
Congregations, 21.
Division of, 21.
Organization of, 21.
Contributing, 195.
Consolidation of the Boards, 137.
Constitution of the United States, religious amendment to, 96.
Constitutions:
Of the Boards, 81.
Of the Board of Church Extension, 89.
Of the Board of Education, 105.
Of the Board of Foreign Missions, 112.
Of the Board of Missions to the Freedmen, 122.
Of the Board of Home Missions, 132.
Of the Board of Ministerial Relief, 150.
Of the Board of Publication, 172,
Contributions:
Made through Financial Agents, 110.
Credited to Presbyteries, 111.
Of Sabbath Schools, 185.
Weekly, 200.
Correspondence, committee on, 71.
Corresponding Churches, 96.
Delegates to, 97.
Corresponding Secretaries of the Boards, 97.
Election and term of office of, 82, 97.
Rights of, in the Assembly, 82, 97.
Salary of, 82, 187, 188.
Vacancies in the office of, 83.
Ex-officio members of the Boards, 82, 97.
Council, Presbyterian, 159.
Counsel in actual process, 38.
Courts of the Church, 15.
Officers of, 19.
Covenanting, 64, 98.
Credentials:
Committee on, 71.
Of Commissioners to the Assembly, 19, 127.
Form of, 53.
Curriculum of study in Theological Seminaries, 211.

Dancing, 76.
Deacons, 15, 98.
Powers and duties of, 15.
Election of, 30.
Ordination and installation of, 31.
Removing to another congregation, 33.
Deaconesses, 98.
Dead, burial of the, 67.
Debate in the Assembly, 74.
Declinature, 50.
Definition of, 50.
When warrantable, 50.
Effects of, 50.
Deeds of church property, 86.
Delegate Fund, 99.
Delegates to the Assembly—see Commissioners to the Assembly.
Delegates to Corresponding Churches:
Expenses of, 97.
Not to be appointed, 97.
Depositories of the Board of Publication, 174.
Deposition, 44.
Form of a sentence of, 54.
Desecration of the Sabbath, 179.
Devotional Exercises, committee on, 71
Digest of the Deliverances of the Assembly, 101.
Directory for Worship, 56.
Preparation of, 102.
Adoption of, 103.

Discipline:
Definition of, 34.
Necessity and objects of, 34.
Ground of, 34.
Requires wisdom, 34.
Subjects of, 34.
Discipline, Book of—see Book of Government and Discipline.
Dismissed members of the church, 50, 147.
Dissent, 45.
Definition of, 45.
Persons entitled to, 46.
Reasons for, 46.
Right to record, 46.
Divorce, 145.
Dissolution of the pastoral relation, 30.
Docket of the Assembly, 70.

Edict, 26.
Form of, 52.
Education, Board of, 103.
Charter of, 103.
Constitution of, 105.
Regulations of, 105.
Married beneficiaries of, 108.
Competitive examination of the beneficiaries of, 108.
To report its beneficiaries, 108.
Salary of the corresponding secretary of, 187.
Elders, Ruling:
Powers and duties of, 15.
Election of, 30.
Ordination and installation of, 31.
Term of office of, 178.
Removing to another congregation, 33.
Elders Teaching:
Powers, names and duties, 15.
Election of, 25.
Ordination and installation of, 26.
Elective franchise, 109.
To be extended to the colored race, 109.
Emancipation of slaves, 191.
Enabling Act of Theological Seminaries, 209.
Episcopacy, 13.
Evangelical Alliance, 109.
Evangelical churches, confederation of, 95.
Evidence, 40.
Of witnesses, 40.
Of records of church courts, 41.
Of writings and publications, 41.
Taken by commissioners, 42.
Circumstantial, 42.
Positive, 42.
Second-hand, 42.
New evidence in an appeal, 42.
Examination:
Of beneficiaries of the Board of Education, 108.
Of theological students, 214.
Excommunication, 44.
Form of sentence of, 54.

Family visitation, see pastoral visitation.
Family worship, 62.
Fasting, 63.
Finance, committee on, 71.
Financial agents, 109.
Blanks for, 111.
Election of, 109.
Duties of, 110.
Accounts of, to be audited, 110.
To acknowledge all receipts, 111.
To apportion the funds among the congregations, 110.
Contributions to be made through, 110.
General, 111.
Forbearance in love defined, 207.
Foreign Missions, Board of, 111.
Charter of, 111.
Constitution of, 112.
Regulations of, 113.
Salary of the corresponding secretary of, 187.
Salary of the treasurer of, 189.
To publish a monthly periodical, 120.
China and Syria Missions, 117.
Foreign Missionaries:
Children of, 115, 116.
Widows of, 116.
Outfit of, 115.
Return of, 115.
Salary of, 115.
Salary of returned, 114, 115.
Native, 116.
Foreign Missionary Societies, 118.
Forms:
For dismission of members, 51.
For the moderation of a call, 51.
Of a call for a minister, 51.
For the attestation of a call, 52.
Of an act of licensure, 52.
Of an edict, 52.
Of a certificate of ordination, 52.
Of transfer to another Presbytery, 53.
Of a commission to the Assembly, 53.
Of a libel, 53.
Of a citation, 53.
Of an oath, 54.
Of a sentence of suspension, 54.
Of a sentence of deposition, 54.
Of a sentence of excommunication, 54.
Of an act of restoration, 55.
Franchise, elective, 109.
Free Masons, 189.

Free Pews, 124.
Freedmen, Board of Missions to, 120.
Charter of, 120.
Constitution of, 122.
Regulations of, 122.
History of, 123.
Normal School of, 122.
Dormitories, 123.
Students' Fund, 123.
Consolidation of, with other Boards, 137.
Salary of the corresponding secretary of, 188.
Funds:
Of the Assembly, 127.
Of the Associate Synod, 80.
Bible and Psalm Book, 171, 174.
Delegate, 99.
For paying all the expenses of delegates, 101.
Aged ministers', 148.
Widows' and orphans', 148.
Sustentation, 199.

Gailey's Appeal, 124.
General Assembly, 18, 124.
Appellate power of, 18, 127.
Power over theological seminaries, 19, 208.
Charter of, 124.
Credentials of commissioners to, 19, 127.
Form of credentials of commissioners to, 53.
Expenses of commissioners to, 99.
Commissioners not to absent themselves, 127.
Judicial commissions of, 19.
Fund of, 127.
Power of, 18.
Meetings of, 19.
Opening of, 69.
Members of, 18.
Officers of, 20, 69, 94.
Quorum of, 19, 70.
Dissolution of, 19, 75.
Minutes of, 152.
Time of meeting of, 126.
Ratio of representation in, 18, 126.
Printing and stationery for, 127.
General Financial Agent, 111.
General Home Missionaries, 139.
God in the Constitution, 96.
Gordon's Appeal, 127.
Government, Book of—see Book of Government and Discipline.
Government of the church, temporary arrangement for, 83.
Grangers, 190.
Green's Appeal, 128.

Hill's Case, 128.
History of the United Presbyterian Church, 130.
To be prepared, 130.
Materials for to be collected by the Board of Publication, 154, 174.
Historical Society:
Presbyterian, 160.
United Presbyterian, 161.
Home Missions, Board of, 130.
Charter of, 130.
Constitution of, 132.
Regulations of, 132.
Amendments to regulations of, 136.
Consolidation of, with other Boards, 137.
Re-arranging the work of, 137.
Special missions to be under the care of, 138.
Salary of the corresponding secretary of, 188.
Home Missions, General Commitee of, 133.
Home Missionaries:
A boarding place to be provided for, 138.
Duties of, 138.
Disabled, 138.
Per diem of, 138.
General, 139.
To be employed and remunerated by Presbyteries, 140.
Pastoral visitation defined, 138.
Stated supply defined, 139.
Appropriations to pastors, 139.
Hymns, 57, 161.

Index of the minutes of the Assembly, 153.
Indians, missions among, 140.
Installation of elders and deacons, 31.
Installation of pastors, 28.
By a committee of Presbytery, 28.
In peculiar circumstances, 156.
Instrumental church music, 58, 93.
Intemperance, 201.
International arbitration, 156.
Intoxicating liquors, manufacture and sale of, 201.
Investment of legacies, 142.
Iowa, organization of the Synod of, 200.

Jews, missions among, 140.
Jones' Version of the Psalms, 170.
Judicial cases, transfer of, to a higher court, 46.
Judiciary, committee on, 71.
Jurisdiction, 50.
Over dismissed members, 50, 147.
Over dismissed ministers, 50, 147.

Kansas, organization of Synod of, 200.

Legacies:
Permanent investment of, 142.
General, 143.
Libel:
Relevancy of, 37.
Form of, 36, 53.
Libraries for Sabbath Schools, 65, 184.
Licensure:
Mode of, 24.
Trials for, 24, 198.
Duration of, 25.
Certificate of, 25.
Form of certificate of, 52.
To be granted only at the end of the theological course, 24, 197.
To be reported to the Assembly, 143.
Licentiates—see Probationers.
Limitation of time, 23, 25, 50.
Loan Fund of the Board of Extension, 90.
Special, 91.
Loans, temporary, to the Board of Church Extension, 91.
Lord's Supper, 60.
Place of, 60.
Persons entitled to, 60.
Administrator of, 60.
Frequency of, 60.
Mode of, 61.

Manses, 143.
Marriage, 66, 144.
Ceremony of, 66.
Time of, 67.
With a deceased wife's niece, 144.
With a deceased wife's sister, 144.
With a deceased wife's relatives, 145.
Within the forbidden degrees, 66, 144.
With irreligious persons, 66, 144.
Married beneficiaries of the Board of Education, 108.
Marshalls' Appeal, 145.
Mathews' Memorial, 146.
McCune's Case, 146.
Meetings, regular and special:
Of the Session, 16.
Of the Presbytery, 17.
Of the Synod, 18.
Of the Assembly, 19.
Members of the church, 14.
Admission of, 22.
Special cases, 22.
Required to adhere to the standards, 205.
Tenderness in admitting, 147.
Discretion to be exercised in receiving, 22, 207.
Dismission of, 23.
Jurisdiction of church courts over dismissed, 50, 147.
Unpaid subscriptions of, 147.
Ministerial Relief, Board of, 148.
Charter of, 149.
Constitution of, 150.
Regulations of, 151.
Endowment Fund of, 152.
Ministerial Support, 199.
Ministers, 15.
Ordination of, 26,
Installation of, 28.
Translation of, 29.
Release of, 30.
From other churches, 152.
Deceased, record of, 195.
Dismissed, 50, 147.
Fund for aged, 148.
Accused, rights of, 40.
Without charge, rights of, 16, 127, 152.
Supplying in vacancies, 152.
Not to sanction the use of hymns in worship, 161.
Salary of, 188.
Trial of—see Process, actual, against ministers.
Minutes of the Assembly, 152.
To be published under the supervision of the clerks, 75, 152.
To be published by the Board of Publication, 75, 152.
Compensation for superintending publication of, 152,
Not to be transcribed, 153.
Gratuitous copies of, 153.
Index of, 153.
Minutes of Presbyteries, 17.
Minutes of Sessions, 16.
Minutes of Synods:
To be submitted to the Assembly, 18, 199.
To be printed, 153, 199.
Mission Sabbath Schools, 65, 185.
Missionary Presbyteries, 153.
Moderator:
Of the Assembly, 20, 69.
Of the Presbytery, 20.
Of the Session, 16, 20.
Of the Synod, 20.
Motions in the Assembly, 72.
Music:
In the church, 58, 92.
For Sabbath Schools, 186.

rative and State of Religion:
Permanent committee on, 95, 154.
Standing committee on, 71.
Blanks for, 154.
National Centennial, 85.
National Reform, 96.

Nominations, committee on 71.
Normal School for the Freedmen, 122.

Oath, form of, 54.
Odd Fellows, 189, 190.
Offences:
Definition of, 35.
Personal, 35.
Private, 35.
General, 35.
Charged but not proved, 38.
Acts of infirmity, 39.
In the presence of the court, 40.
By dismissed members and ministers, 50, 147.
Offenders, restoration of, 45.
Officers:
Of the church, 14.
Of the courts of the church, 19.
Ohio, organization of the Synod of, 200.
Old records, 154.
To be secured and published by the Board of Publication, 154.
Committee on, 155.
To be deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society, 161.
Order of business in the Assembly, 72.
Order of the day, 73.
Ordination of elders and deacons, 31.
To be reported to Presbytery, 31, 33.
Record of, 33.
Ordination of ministers, 26.
Trial and examination for, 26.
Edict for, 26.
Form of edict for, 52.
Questions for, 27.
Ceremony of, 28.
Without installation, 28.
Record of, 195.
Certificate of, 52.
Oregon, Presbytery of, 156.
Organization of Associate and Associate Reformed Presbyteries and Synods, record of, 130.
Outfit of foreign missionaries, 115.
Overtures, 19.
To be transmitted only by a two-thirds vote, 156.
On the Book of Government and Discipline, 83, 84.
On the corresponding secretary of the Board of Home Missions, 98.
On a General Financial Agent, 111.
On the Directory for Worship, 102, 103.
On instrumental music, 93.
On marriage with a deceased wife's sister, 145.
On ministers from other churches, 152.
On Papal baptism, 81.
On the rights of members of lower courts in appeals, 77.
On the trial exercises of students, 85, 198.
On the new and amended version of the Psalms, 162-169.

Pacific, organization of the Synod of, 200.
Bi-ennial meeting of the Synod of, 200.
Pan-Presbyterial Council, 159.
Papal baptism, 81.
Paper, a weekly Sabbath School, 186,
Paraphrases, 161.
Pastoral relation, dissolution of, 30.
Pastoral visitation, 65, 67.
Explained, 138.
Pastors:
Election of, 25.
Voters for, 26.
Ordination of, 26.
Installation of, 28.
Installation of, in peculiar cases, 156.
Translation of, 29.
Release of, 30.
Home Missionary appropriations to, 139.
Patrons of Husbandry, 190.
Peace, 156.
Per diem of Home Missionaries, 138.
Permanent committees—see Committees, permanent.
Pew rents, 124.
Pittsburgh, organization of the Synod of, 200.
Prayer in public worship, 58.
Prayer meetings, 62.
Preaching of the Word in public worship, 58.
Presbyteries:
Missionary, 153.
Reports of, 154, 177.
To give attention to Sabbath Schools, 181.
To have care over theological students, 24, 197.
To supervise the building of churches, 91.
To look after the property of extinct churches, 92.
Presbyterian Church, union with, 157.
Presbyterian Council, 159.
Presbyterian Historical Society, 160.
Presbyterianism, 13.
Presbytery, the, 16.
Members of, 16, 17.
Authority of, 16.

Duties of, 17.
Meetings of, 17.
Officers of, 20.
Records and reports of, 17.
Opening and closing exercises of, 17.
Quorum of, 17.
Previous question, 73.
Principal clerk of the Assembly:
Election of, 69.
Term of office of, 69.
Duties of, 70.
Salary of, 94.
Treasurer of the Assembly pro tem., 215.
Printing, stationery, &c., for the Assembly, 127.
Privileged questions, 73.
Prizes to be offered by the Board of Publication for original works, 175.
Probationers, 24.
Licensure of, 24.
Subject to Presbytery, 25.
Excused from appointments, 143.
Process, actual, 36.
Informer, 36.
Prosecutor, 36.
Form of charges, 36.
Parties, 36.
Responsibility of an accuser, 36.
Preliminary steps, 35, 36.
Notice to the parties, 36.
Citations, 37.
Form of citations, 53.
Specifications, 37.
Admissibility of charges, 37.
Relevancy of libel, 37.
Examination of witnesses, 38.
Parties heard and judgment given 38.
Records and copies, 38.
Publication of sentence, 38.
Temporary suspension, 38.
Offences not charged but proved, 38.
Counsel, 38.
When not necessary, 40.
Evidence in, 40.
Sentences, 42.
Censures, 43.
Restoration of offenders, 45.
Limitation of time, 50.
To be allowed but once, 50.
Process, actual, against ministers, 39.
Preliminary steps, 35, 39.
Method of procedure, 39.
Must be before his own Presbytery, 39.
Duty of interested Presbyteries, 39.
Accuser, 39.
Acts of infirmity, 39.
Contumacy, 40.
Rights of an accused minister, 40.
When not necessary, 40.
Evidence in, 40.
Sentences, 42.
Censures, 43.
Restoration of offenders, 45.
Limitation of time, 50.
To be allowed but once, 50.
Professors in theological seminaries confirmed, 214.
Prohibition, 203.
Protest, 45.
Definition of, 46.
Reasons for, 46.
Persons entitled to, 46.
When made, 46.
When admitted, 46.
Right to record, 46.
Reasons and answers, 46.
What it implies, 46.
In court of last resort, 46.
Psalm Book fund, 171, 174.
Psalms:
Book of, to be used, 57.
Manner of singing, 57, 92.
Amended version of, 161.
New version of, 164.
History of the new version of, 169.
Difficulty with Prof. A. Jones concerning a new version of, 170.
Introduction of the new and amended version of, 169.
Selections from, to be published, 170.
Psalter, the, 93.
Publication, Board of, 170.
Charter of, 170.
Amendments to the charter of, 172.
Constitution of, 172.
Regulations of, 173.
Business manager of, 173.
To collect materials for a history of the church, 174.
To establish a Bible and Psalm Book fund, 171, 174.
To establish depositories, 174.
To keep for sale books exposing Romanism, 177.
To make donations to weak Sabbath Schools, 174.
To offer prizes for original manuscripts, 175.
To pay for suitable manuscripts, 175.
To publish the minutes of the Assembly, 75, 152.
To publish registers, &c., 175.

To publish selections from the Psalms, 170.
To secure and publish old records, 154, 174.

Questions not debatable, 74.
Quorum:
Of the Assembly, 19, 70.
Of the Presbytery, 17.
Of the Session, 16.
Of the Synod, 18.

Ratio of representation in the Assembly, 18, 126.
Reading sermons, 59, 175.
Rebellion, the civil:
The result of slavery, 191.
Resolutions on the state of the country during the, 192.
Rebuke, 43.
Reconsideration of motions, 74.
Record of Associate and Associate Reformed organizations, 130.
Records:
Of the Assembly, 20, 152.
Of Presbyteries, 17.
Of Sessions, 16.
Of Synods, 18, 153, 199.
To be reviewed by a higher court, 47.
Of Associate and Associate Reformed Churches, 155.
Old—see Old records.
References, 47.
Definition of, 47.
Subjects of, 48.
Object of, 48.
Effects of, 48.
Duties of a superior court in, 48.
Notice of, 48.
Reformed Presbyterian Church, 175.
Union with, 175.
Registers to be published by the Board of Publication, 175.
Regulations of the Boards:
Of Church Extension, 89.
Of Education, 105.
Of Foreign Missions, 113.
Of Missions to the Freedmen, 122.
Of Home Missions, 132.
Of Home Missions, amended, 136.
Of Ministerial Relief, 151.
Of Publication, 173.
Repeating tunes, 92.
Reports of the Boards to be printed, 83.
Reports of Presbyteries, 177.
Blanks for, 177.
To be forwarded to the committee on Narrative and State of Religion, 95, 177.
To be omitted from the minutes of the Assembly, 177.
Reports of the treasurers of the Boards:
To be audited, 82, 216.
A classified summary to be printed, 82, 216.
Representation in the Assembly:
Ratio of, 18, 126.
Basis of, 127.
Restoration of offenders, 45.
Form of an act of, 55.
Review and control, 47.
Duty of the higher court, 47.
Matters of, 47.
Mode of, 47.
Irregularities corrected, 47.
Decisions reversed, 47.
On common fame, 47.
Courts reviewing their own decisions, 47.
Revision, committee on, 71.
Romanism, 177.
Rules of order, 69.
Amendments to, 177.
How amended, 75.
In lower courts, 75.
Ruling Elders—see Elders, Ruling.

Sabbath, the:
Sanctification of, 56.
Desecration of, 179.
Marriage not to be solemnized on, 67.
Funerals not to take place on, 68.
Opening the Centennial grounds on, 179.
Closing the Philadelphia Permanent Exhibition on, 180.
Sabbath Schools:
Permanent committee on, 95, 180.
Standing committee on, 71, 180.
To be under the control of Sessions, 64, 181.
Presbyteries to give attention to, 181.
Presbyterial superintendents of, 182.
Synods to given attention to, 182.
Superintendent of, 65.
Teachers in, 65, 182.
Teachers' meetings in, 65, 183.
Order of exercises in, 65.
Adult classes in, 183.
Normal classes in, 183.
Lesson papers for, 184.
Uniform lessons in, 183.
Shorter Catechism in, 65, 183.
Books and papers for, 65, 184.
Contributions of, 185.
Congregations to provide funds for, 185.

Donations to weak, 174.
Preaching to, 184.
Statistics of, 180.
To be kept open all the year, 185.
Mission, 65, 185.
Weekly paper for, 186.
Music for, 186.
Sacraments—see Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
Salaries:
Of corresponding secretaries, &c., to be paid out of Assembly's fund, 186.
Of the clerks of the Assembly, 94.
Of the corresponding secretaries of the Boards, 187.
Of foreign missionaries, 115.
Of returned foreign missionaries, 114, 115.
Of home missionaries, 138.
Of ministers, 188.
Of the treasurers of the Boards, 188.
Schools, Bible in the public, 81, 85,
Second clerk of the Assembly:
Election of, 69, 94.
Term of office of, 69.
Expiration of the term of office of, 94.
Duties of, 70, 94.
Salary of, 94.
Secret societies, 189.
Secret worship, 62.
Secretaries of the Boards—see Corresponding secretaries of the Boards.
Securities to be given to the Board of Church Extension, 90.
Selections from the Psalms, 170, 186.
Sentences:
Definition of, 42.
In proportion to offences, 42.
Execution of, 43.
Publication of, 38.
Sermons:
In public worship, 58.
Reading of, 59, 175.
To Sabbath School scholars, 184.
Session, the, 15.
Members of, 15.
Authority of, 15.
Moderator of, 16.
Duties of, 16.
Officers of, 20.
Records of, 16.
When rightly constituted, 16.
How convened, 16.
Quorum of, 16.
To meet for prayer, 62.
To exercise a wise discretion in receiving members, 22, 207.
To have jurisdiction over dismissed members, 50, 147.
To have control of church music, 58, 92.
To have control of church property, 179.
To have control of Sabbath Schools, 64, 181.
To discipline for failure in beneficence, 66.
Relation of trustees to, 179.
Shorter Catechism in Sabbath Schools, 65, 183.
Slavery:
The rebellion the result of, 191.
Slaves:
Emancipation of, 191.
Use of money received from sale of, 192.
Societies:
Presbyterian Historical, 160.
United Presbyterian Historical, 161.
Secret, 189.
Women's Missionary, 118.
Speer estate, 80.
Standing committees—see committees, standing.
State of the country during the rebellion, 192.
Stated supply defined, 139.
Stationery, printing, &c., for the Assembly, 127.
Statistical year, close of, 196.
Statistics:
Blanks for, 196.
Committee on, 71.
Items to be reported for, 194.
Of Sabbath Schools, 180.
Under the care of the second clerk, 70, 94, 196.
To be forwarded to the second clerk before the meeting of the Assembly, 196.
Students, 196.
To attend the colleges of the church, 196.
Undergraduates not to enter the theological seminaries, 197.
Theological—see Theological students.
Subscriptions of church members, unpaid, 147.
Substitutes for motions, 74.
Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, 65.
Presbyterial, 182.
Superintendents of Missions, 198.
Election of, 133, 198.
Duties of, 133, 198.
Accounts of, to be audited, 199.
Agents of the Board of Church Extension, 91.
Suspension, 43.
Form of sentence of, 54.

Temporary, 38.
Sustentation fund, 199.
Synod, the, 17.
Members of, 17.
Authority of, 18.
Duties of, 18.
Meetings of, 18.
Officers of, 20.
Opening and closing exercises, of, 18.
Records and reports of, 18, 153, 199.
Quorum of, 18.
Synods, 199.
Bi-ennial meetings of, 200.
To give attention to Sabbath Schools, 182.
Organized, 200.
Syria mission, 118.
Systematic beneficence, 66, 200.
Measure of, 66.
Instruction in, 66.
Discipline for failure in, 66.
Committee on, 200.
Plan for, 201.

Teachers in Sabbath Schools:
Meetings of, 65, 183.
To be membsrs of the church, 65, 182.
Temperance, 201.
Duty of the church in behalf of, 202.
Union of churches to promote, 203.
Women's movement in behalf of, 204.
Terms of communion, 204.
Testimony—see Evidences and Witnesses.
Testimony, deliverance on the sixteenth article of the, 204.
Thanksgiving, 63.
Theatrical exhibitions, 76.
Theological seminaries:
Under the care of the Assembly, 19, 208.
Enabling Act of, 209.
Proposed statutes for, 211.
Consolidation of, 211.
Curriculum of study in, 211.
Term of study in, 24, 213.
Examination of students in, 214.
Undergraduates not to be admitted to, 197.
Confirmation of professors in, 214.
Theological students:
To be under the care of a Presbytery, 24, 197.
Examination of, to be written, 214.
Licensure of, 24, 197.
Not to be licensed till the end of the theological course, 24, 197.
Qualifications of, 24.
Preaching of, 197.
Trial exercises of, 24, 198.
Tithes, 200.
Title to church property, 86, 214.
Tobacco, 215.
Total abstinence, 202.
Transfer of judicial cases to a higher court, 46.
Uses of, 46.
Modes of, 47.
Review and control, 47.
References, 47.
Appeals, 48.
Complaints, 49.
Declinature, 50.
Rights of an inferior court, 47.
Translation of pastors, 29.
Treasurer:
General, 111.
Of the Assembly, pro tem., 215.
Treasurers of the Boards:
Election of, 82, 215.
Duties of, 82, 215.
To keep their accounts with Presbyteries, 215.
To publish their receipts, 215.
To prepare a classified summary of their reports for the minutes of the Assembly, 82, 216.
Reports of, to be audited, 82, 216.
Salaries of, 188.
Treasurers of church courts, 20.
Trial Exercises of theological students, 24, 198.
Trustees of the Assembly, 217.
Act of incorporation of, 124.
Duties of, 217.
Trustees of congregations, 179, 216.
Tunes, repeating, 92.

Uniform lessons in the Sabbath School, 183.
Union:
Of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches, 217.
With the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, 80.
With the Presbyterian Church, 157.
With the Reformed Presbyterian Church, 175.
Union Leagues, 191.
United Presbyterian Church:
Organization of, 217.
History of, to be prepared, 130.
Materials for a history of, to be collected, 174.
Historical Society of, 161.

Vacancies:
To be supplied through Presbyteries, 152.

In the office of corresponding secretaries, 83.
Versions of the Psalms:
Amended, 161.
New, 164.
Prof. A. Jones', 170.
Visitation:
Pastoral, 65, 138.
Of the sick, 67.
Voting in the Assembly, 69, 75.

War, the civil, 191, 192.
Week of Prayer, 223.
Weekly contributions, 200.
Widows of foreign missionaries, 116.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 148.
Wilson's Appeal, 146, 223.
Witnesses:
Citation of, 37.
Form of citation of, 53.
Competency of, 40.
Credibility of, 40.
Number of, 41.
Members of the court as, 41.
Separate examination of, 41.
Purged of malice, 41.
To be under oath, 41.
Form of oath, 54.
Examination of, 41.
Testimony of, to be recorded and attested, 41.
Contumacy of, 41.
May be examined by commissioners, 42.
Women as Deaconesses, 98.
Women's Missionary Societies, 118.
Women's part in public religious exercises, 224.
Women's temperance movement, 204.
Worship:
Definition of, 56.
Object of, 56.
Seasons for, 56.
Ordinances of public, 57.
Order of, 57.
Reading of the Scriptures, 57.
Singing of praise, 57,
Offering of prayer, 58.
Preaching of the word, 58.
Administration of baptism, 59.
Administration of the Lord's Supper, 60.
Pronouncing the benediction, 61
Ordinances of social, 62.
Ordinances of family, 62.
Ordinances of secret, 62.
Ordinances of extraordinary, 63.
Fasting, 63.
Thanksgiving, 63.
Covenanting, 64.

Year, close of the statistical, 196.

555264
48138023A

BX
8986
.A52
1878

United Presbyterian Church of North America. General Assembly.
Digest of the principal acts and deliverances of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America from 1859 to 1878. -- Pittsburgh : United Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1878.
226 [i.e. 236] p. ; 23 cm.
Other title: United Presbyterian digest.
Half title: United Presbyterian digest.
1. United Presbyterian Church of North America--Government. 2. United Presbyterian Church of North America--Discipline. I. Title: United Presbyterian digest.

55520d

CCSC 23 SEP 97 25306863 CSTMxc